

Pacific nations open summit with eye on climate fight

PALIKIR, 09 SEPTEMBER 2016 (AFP)

--- Pacific island leaders opened their annual regional summit Thursday with a colourful ceremony in Micronesia, as some of the world's smallest nations vowed to put up a big fight against climate change.

Members of the 16-nation Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) were greeted by traditional dancers in grass skirts at the meeting's opening in the Micronesian capital Palikir.

The event included a sakau-sharing session, where local elders consume the mildly narcotic drink better known as kava, as well as a Christian invocation in the deeply religious country.

Air Niugini to begin flight services to Pohnpei and Chuuk in December

September 3, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—The arrival of an Air Niugini flight in Chuuk and in Pohnpei last week was not the “maiden” voyage of the new airline service to the FSM, but that is coming in December of this year. The flight that arrived last week was a charter flight for the Pacific Islands Forum meetings.

According to “The National”, formal approval has been given to Air Niugini by the Federated States of Micronesia President Peter Christian to operate commercial flights between the two countries.

Air Niugini board chairman Sir Frederick Reiher led a management team on the airline's first flight to the FSM states of Chuuk and Pohnpei.

The PIF nations face a range of serious issues when the summit gets down to business, ranging from over-exploited fisheries to poverty and an obesity epidemic.

But they agree that the most pressing problem is climate change, which threatens the very existence of some low-lying PIF members such as Kiribati and Tuvalu.

The PIF's prominent lobbying played a key role reaching a deal at last year's Paris

Sir Frederick said the visit was the result of the discussions between the FSM President and Prime Minister Peter O'Neil during the 2015 Pacific Forum Meeting in Port Moresby. Air Niugini was invited to start a regular air service to FSM.

“President Christian described this agreement with Air Niugini and PNG as a sign of how co-operation between the Pacific Islands Forum members works for the real benefit of member countries,” Sir Frederick told “The National”.

“So that the financial risks associated with a new international service can be managed, Air Niugini has asked the FSM Government to share the risk involved in establishing this new air service.

climate talks, which was finally ratified by Washington and Beijing -- the world's two biggest polluters -- last weekend.

See “PIF” on page 7

“I am delighted that the President and his government responded positively to our request, and have agreed to provide a firm response when the financial year begins in October, Sir Frederick told The National.

General Manager Customers and Markets, Mr Dominic Kaumu very quickly told The Kaselehlie Press that Air Niugini has no plans to ever service Guam. Instead the airline will serve as a direct link between the North and South Pacific without the need to transit in Guam. He said that the flight to Port Moresby is two hours and 40 minutes from Chuuk. From Jacksons International Airport (POM) outside of Port Moresby, customers will have access to the rest of the world.

He said that FSM citizens will be able to get a visa on arrival in POM.

He said that Air Niugini operates 28 planes and the company is 53 years old.



Mwoakillese Climate Warriors perform at the Pacific Island Forum Opening Ceremony

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Guam's Governor Calvo now using ICE for deportations

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

September 16, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—Guam's Governor Eddie Calvo has said that if the US Federal government is not going to do its job by deporting convicted migrants he will do it for them. He has already commuted the sentences of five FSM citizens from Chuuk and sent them home in exchange for a promise that they would never return to Guam even for transit purposes. Early on Calvo called his arrangements "deportations", but even the Guam Attorney General has questioned whether the Guam Governor has any power for deportations, a role of the U.S. Government.

Calvo has since stopped referring to his sentence commutations and agreements for convicted FSM felons as "deportations" and at last for the last three sentence commutations, seems to have changed his method for reaching the same end.

On September 6, he commuted the sentences of a Chuukese and a Filipino felon and turned them over to ICE (US Immigration and Customs Enforcement) for official US deportation hearings. He also commuted the sentence of a Kosraen serving a two year sentence for attempted third-degree criminal sexual conduct and then turned him over to ICE pending US deportation hearings.

After the first five deportations, the FSM consul in Guam, former Yap Governor Robert Ruecho informed Governor Calvo that future citizenship certifications would need to be provided by the FSM National Government and that Guam would need

to provide a list of documents before FSM would provide that certification:

- recent color photograph of the individual
- fingerprints of the individual if available
- copy of the records from the facility where the individual is incarcerated, including relevant court records
- the individual's medical records
- order of pardon or commutation
- copy of the agreement between the individual and GovGuam providing for the individual to depart Guam
- proof the individual received services of an attorney and a court certified language translator
- proof the individual has voluntarily chosen to accept a pardon or commutation
- copy of the individual's proposed travel itinerary
- copy of the corresponding travel itinerary for the person escorting the individual in question to the FSM

Calvo was angered by the letter and threatened to declare Ruecho persona non grata in Guam. He later expanded that threat to include any FSM official who agreed with the FSM's policy. Calvo hasn't yet taken that step. It's not even clear whether or not he would have the power to do so.

FSM's Secretary for Foreign Affairs Lorin Robert told the Guam Daily Post that the requirements were to ensure that the convicted felons were provided "due process", and that the convicts completely understood what they were agreeing to before being banned from Guam.

"For example, when the governor

commutes, does that person from Chuuk know what he is talking about? You know the due process. The presence of an attorney or legal services, those kind of things, was there an attorney present when they met this Chuukese guy?" Robert asked the Guam Daily Post.

It's not at all clear that each of the convicts who have been ejected from Guam truly understood what they were signing when they agreed not to return to Guam. One former convict from Chuuk told the Pacific Daily News (PDN) that when he heard that another Chuukese convict had gone back to Chuuk he asked his caseworker to see if he could get the same deal. He told PDN that he had been sentenced to five years in prison and he was tired of being in jail. Now that he has been back in Chuuk for over a month, he wants to go back to Guam because he said that it is very difficult to find a job in Chuuk.

"They said I cannot go back, I cannot step on Guam soil. But they told me that I can still go in the U.S. like Hawaii, mainland. But Guam, never," he told PDN.

According to a statement from Calvo's office provided to the Guam Daily Post,

the rhetoric is strong. "It is interesting that the FSM is trying to rely on U.S. due process to deny FSM citizens a fundamental right to return home. When a person's sentence is commuted, he is just as free to return to his home country as if he had completed his sentence...It is ironic that the FSM government is seeking to deprive its citizens a fundamental right by hiding behind U.S. fundamental rights."

Under the FSM Constitution and the FSM code, FSM citizens are provided with the right of due process and where the FSM code is silent on a matter, US case precedent can, and has been utilized in FSM courts.

Secretary Robert told Guam Daily Post that the Federated States of Micronesia Consul General's office in Guam doesn't have the authority to confirm information on the citizenship of individuals being removed. That information has to be addressed to the FSM government itself.

According to a PNC News First item, US Ambassador to the FSM Robert A. Riley has asked to have a face to face meeting with Governor Calvo over the deportation of "criminal FAS (Freely Associated States) migrants".

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Vietnamese blue boats plunder the Pacific

Go ahead Sink my boat Burn it See if I care I'll be back

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

September 6, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—The so called “blue boats” from Vietnam have become a scourge of the Pacific.

Painted a color of blue that matches the sea and carrying no electronics as they are required to do, they are almost impossible to track in the vast Pacific Ocean. The boats cost almost nothing to buy or to operate. According to the FSM Department of Justice, they aren't registered anywhere

If countries catch them it's up to those countries to figure out what to do with them. Countries violated by the boats have confiscated them. They've burned them. They've even blown them up in spectacular fashion. Sinking, burning, or blowing up a blue boat may be spectacular images for the media and the rest of the world but it does little to keep the blue boats from scavenging the world's oceans. The Vietnamese scavengers keep coming back

because losing a boat is simply not enough of a deterrent to keep them away. There's simply too much money to be made.

And profit they do. Clayton Lawrence, FSM Department of Justice (DOJ) prosecutor said that the fishermen can make enough money in one trip to pay for all of their expenses including the purchase of the boat and its fuel.

The “blue boats” are a huge drain on local finances when they are caught and a huge drain on ecosystems when they are not.

The US Coast Guard's Admiral Vincent Atkins told US Assistant Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Danny Russel during a tour of the marine surveillance vessels at the dock in Dekehtik, Pohnpei last week that simply taking the vessels from the “blue boat” operators isn't enough of a deterrent to keep them from coming back.

The Vietnamese fishermen detained in Pohnpei for their crimes told the (DOJ) before they were deported that they target the FSM because it is known that they can profit from the sea cucumber in their waters. Other target areas include Australia, Philippines, and Indonesia.

“They are worse than tuna illegal fishermen,” said Eugene Pangelinan, Director of the FSM's National Oceanic Resources Management Agency (NORMA). “They are actually coming in close to our homes and taking fish that we depend on.”

He says that the Vietnam government should step up to the plate and prosecute offenders when they get back home but that is not happening.

According to a DOJ summary report provided to Pacific Islands journalists

gathered for a NORMA press briefing, since December of 2014 the FSM has arrested more than nine Vietnamese vessels and approximately 169 Vietnamese. The FSM has borne the substantial cost of detecting the vessels, making the arrest, transporting them, feeding them and then repatriating them.

“To date, the Vietnam Government has never assisted the FSM government financially in repatriating its citizens back to Vietnam or assisting financially to provide for the basic needs of the Vietnamese while they are detained in the FSM,” the DOJ provided fact sheet says.

“...to find a thief in your house, and have to treat them as honoured guests and pay their passage home as their 'punishment'. No wonder some of them are return offenders,” wrote a person posting on a social media site in regards to a TVNZ news story, an “exclusive” on the problem of the “blue boats”.

That story claimed that the fishermen were victims of human smuggling. In that regard, the story certainly was exclusive. The network conducted interviews with people from India and Nepal who in fact had paid significant amounts of money to be smuggled from Indonesia to the US, Australia, and New Zealand but those people were not involved in the issue of the “blue boats” as DOJ Prosecutor Clayton Lawrence made clear during his briefing of more than a dozen journalists, mainly from the Pacific Islands who were on site while footage was being shot by the film crew from Tahiti.

The people TVNZ interviewed were not the Vietnamese fishermen who the FSM deported on September 1 after a plea arrangement, well before the journalists arrived in Pohnpei. The Indian and Nepalese people arrived on “green boats” in Yap in November of 2014 and were transported to Pohnpei several months ago because Yap could no longer afford to feed and house them. They lived for more than a year at the Yap dock. They were only aboard the Vietnamese “blue boats” when the TVNZ film crew interviewed them because that is where they are being housed until they are repatriated.

Lawrence said that the Indians are set to depart by the end of this month and the remainder of them will be gone by the end of October. The journalists who stayed to hear the briefing rather than running off to do a separate story knew that the Indian and Nepalese residents of the blue boats at the dock had nothing to do with the blue



boat story other than that they are currently living there.

In fact, as part of their plea arrangement the Vietnamese crew members told DOJ that the vessels are purchased in Quang Ngai and that each crew member buys a share. Profits from the 1000-3000 kilograms of sea cucumber are then split in proportion to the percent in share.

It is true that the DOJ charged the Vietnamese fishermen with illegal fishing without a permit, illegal entry for entering the country without an appropriate entry permit, resisting arrest, and yes, also for human smuggling for knowingly arranging or assisting another person's illegal entry into the FSM. But theirs was not a case of a people smuggling ring in the classic sense as TVNZ claimed in their “exclusive” coverage. The Vietnamese never intended to stay in the FSM, only to plunder its waters, a different matter entirely, and perhaps even more insidious if there can be such a thing.

The Indians and Nepalese were not in fact taken off the Vietnamese fishing boats as TVNZ claimed. They are a completely separate case of people being cared for at FSM expense while their repatriation is organized.

The fishermen told DOJ that the price for one of the small boats which can handle 10 to 13 crew members is about 300 million Vietnamese Dong, approximately \$12,000. The small boats carry 25,000 liters of fuel when they leave port in Vietnam. They return to port when the fuel gets down to 10 or 15 thousand liters of fuel. The big blue boats which can carry 16 to 17 crew members cost around 600,000,000 Dong, approximately \$24,000. The bigger boats carry approximately 35,000 liters of fuel and return to port when the fuel has reached 15,000 liters.

The price for diesel fuel in Vietnam has only changed negligibly in the last few months. On September 5, the price per liter was 50 cents USD. At that price, it costs about \$12,500 to fuel an extended journey on one of the bigger boats. The journeys are intended to last two to three months and they bring enough food for that period of time.



FSM joins Smaller Island States group

By Nic Maclellan
(Islands Business magazine)
in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia

PALIKIR, POHNPEI, 07 SEPTEMBER 2016 (ISLANDS BUSINESS) --- Federated States of Micronesia, the host country for this week's Pacific Islands Forum, has been welcomed as a full member of the Smaller Island States (SIS) group within the Forum.

The Pacific's smaller atoll and island nations opened their annual pre-Forum meeting in Pohnpei on Wednesday morning.

Until this week's meeting, SIS membership has comprised Cook Islands, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau and Tuvalu.

Incoming SIS Chair, Prime Minister Henry Puna of the Cook Islands, opened the pre-Forum caucus, welcoming FSM as the latest member of the group by acclamation: "In the true Pacific way, we have wholeheartedly agreed to support and welcome FSM into the SIS family."

In reply, FSM President Peter Christian said: "The Federated States of Micronesia takes this as a great honour, to be included as a member of SIS – something we have wanted for a long time."

Puna also welcomed President Hilda Heine of the Republic of the Marshall Islands to her first Forum meeting, noting that Heine is the first elected female leader of an independent island state.



FSM President Peter M. Christian seated in the Small Island States grouping

Kiribati was represented at the opening by Reetata Rimon, as Taneti Maamau, Te Beretenti of the Republic of Kiribati, will not be attending this week's meeting.

Niue's seat was empty for the opening ceremony. In past years, Niue Premier Toke Talagi has been critical of the lack of regional support to smaller island states.

In 2014, Talagi complained: "We're promised assistance but at the end of the day, since I've been part of the Forum there's been no substantial difference in the manner in which we are treated versus those in the larger countries. We don't get any special assistance from the donor funding, we don't get any special allocation of resources provided for the Pacific Islands Forum from regional institutions and so on."

Since that time, the Forum Secretariat has been boosting its engagement with the SIS countries, including the deployment of SIS attachment staff. Regional organisations have been called on to refocus

attention on issues particular to the smaller Forum members, which have different development priorities and challenges to larger nations like Papua New Guinea and Fiji.

In June this year, SIS Leaders held a special summit in Palau, to adopt a new SIS Strategy. They called for the wider Forum to ensure that the specific priorities of the SIS – on climate finance, transport, and fisheries policy – are reflected in the Forum's new policy mechanism, the Framework for Pacific Regionalism.

Speaking before the meeting, Alfred Schuster, Development Cooperation Adviser at Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, said: "The SIS strategy recognises that there's a new way of making decisions in the Forum. The Framework for Pacific Regionalism has opened up this new public policy process, and the SIS nations need to have their voice heard."

Schuster noted key SIS priorities on health, transport, climate finance, labour mobility and maritime issues (such as fisheries and deep sea mining).

"Climate change continues to be a central issue for them, developing and advocating positions to take to the global arena – driven in particular by smaller members of the group like Tuvalu and Kiribati," he said.

SIS leaders are seeking a mapping of labour flows within the region. Atoll nations like Kiribati and Tuvalu have seen limited numbers of workers recruited for Australia's Seasonal Worker Program. Travel from the central Pacific, often involving transit via Fiji, makes airfares more expensive for prospective employers. Labour-exporting countries like Tonga have captured much of the market for recruitment to Australia, drawing on long experience in promoting temporary labour migration.

Air and sea transport is another major concern, with the SIS leaders are looking at possible options for greater control and management of their upper airspace, given regional airlines often transit their territory.... PACNEWS

CSO engagement must be permanent PIF meeting feature: PIANGO

SUVA, 15 SEPTEMBER 2016 (PIANGO)

--- Civil society engagement sessions must become a permanent part of Pacific islands Forum leaders meetings says the Pacific Islands Association of NGOs executive director, Emele Duituturaga.

Duituturaga who presented alongside five other CSO representatives from Micronesia and Polynesia at the TROIKA breakfast prior to the official opening of the leaders meeting Pohnpei, FSM said the experience was a positive one for the team.

"Overall, the experience of civil society has been a positive one. The team selected by the CSO Forum held in Suva were relatively new to the regionalism but they all reflected positively about their experiences and the policy issues covered when presenting to the five leaders from the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea and Samoa," she said.

"We are grateful that the Forum Secretariat

allowed 10 more members of the CSO sector to be present at the breakfast including Pacific Disability Forum's executive director, Setareki Macanawai, representatives of the newly revived FSM Association of NGOs (FANGO) and NGO leaders from the Northern Pacific."

She said Micronesian CSO representatives that attended the breakfast found the experience empowering and were keen to participate in future CSO engagement platforms with Pacific leaders.

"Their enthusiasm shows in the revival of their umbrella groupings in order to engage more effectively and better understand the Framework for Pacific Regionalism."

"It has also cemented our resolve as the PIANGO family to continue to create spaces so that CSOs can continue to engage north, south and western Pacific colleagues in policy discussions that affect the communities we serve."

Duituturaga said that due to these positive experiences, PIANGO is calling on the leaders and the Forum Secretariat

to ensure that CSO engagement becomes a permanent feature for future PIF leaders meetings.

"We were particularly encouraged by the commitment made by the Samoan Prime Minister at the TROIKA breakfast to expand the current form of CSO engagement (TROIKA Breakfast) to a full-fledged session with all 16 leaders in Apia, Samoa next year."

"That commitment generated a spontaneous round of cheering and clapping from the 16 CSO reps at the breakfast and it goes to show that as hosts for next year's PIF leaders meeting, Samoa already understands the key role the civil society plays in regional and national policy discussions and development."

She said there are a number of events yet to take place which PIANGO will ensure that North Pacific CSOs can be engaged in with their leaders till the next Forum leaders meeting.

"These are key meetings which can be used by CSOs to engage more effectively

with their government leaders before they attend the next PIFs meeting," Duituturaga said....PACNEWS



Pacific Islands Association of NGOs executive director, Emele Duituturaga

New Caledonia and French Polynesia join Forum as full members

By Nic Maclellan (Islands Business magazine) in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia

POHNPEI, 12 SEPTEMBER 2016 (ISLANDS BUSINESS) --- In a momentous decision, Pacific leaders have accepted French Polynesia and New Caledonia as full members of the Pacific Islands Forum.

The regional organisation now expands to 18 members, following the annual Forum leaders retreat, held on Saturday in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia.

Philippe Germain, President of the Government of New Caledonia, told Islands Business: "It's really a great thing for New Caledonia, for it will certainly allow us to participate in discussions about the management of our region in all sectors: not only the environmental questions that are worrying the whole world, but also issues of economy, health, education and governance."

He said: "This decision will allow New Caledonia to be fully involved in the Forum, and will allow greater partnership and collaboration, through bilateral agreements or collective agreements on trade, fisheries and other issues."

The Forum was created in 1971 as a body of independent island states and the two French dependencies have been associate rather than full members since 2006 (Wallis and Futuna - the third French collectivity in the Pacific - remains a Forum observer, with no clear pathway to full membership).

Although the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) had prepared a report on new criteria for membership for consideration by Forum leaders, they were clearly interested in the politics and not the technicalities.

New Zealand Prime Minister John Key, speaking before the retreat, said: "You can make a case that they don't perfectly fit the criteria, but in the end, French Polynesia and New Caledonia have quite developed economies and I think they would add a fair bit to the debate. My own view is that the Forum would be stronger for their admittance."

Peter Christian, President of the Federated States of Micronesia, is this host for this Forum and its incoming Chair for 2016-17. After the leaders' retreat, Christian noted: "There were concerns about how we are doing it, but at the end of the day, doing it the Pacific way, we agreed that French Polynesia and New Caledonia have been knocking on our doors for many, many years."



PIF Chair FSM Peter M. Christian answers reporters questions after Plenary Session

He added: "One of the things that really helped us make a decision is that most of the issues we're talking about are cross border issues, they have no respect for political borders. In the end, the leaders reserve the right to say yes or no, is it today or tomorrow?"

With other Pacific territories seeking greater engagement with the Forum, including Tokelau, American Samoa and Guam, Samoan Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi acknowledged: "It's a political decision. There are many others, but these two have a long association. They've been knocking and knocking and knocking on the door."

And if others come knocking seeking Forum membership? "We'll cross that bridge when we come to it," said Tuilaepa. "The others will be looked at when the time is right."

Another major regional security issue was West Papua. Civil society representatives met over breakfast with a troika of leaders in Pohnpei this week, lobbying for Forum action to take the West Papuan issue to the international community.

The final Forum communique simply states that "leaders recognised the political sensitivities of the issue of West Papua (Papua) and agreed the issue of alleged human rights violations in West Papua should remain on their agenda. Leaders also agreed on the importance of an open and constructive dialogue with Indonesia on the issue."

Forum host Peter Christian explained: "There are two main issues. One of them is the allegations of human rights violations. The other is the wish of the West Papuans to have a more sovereign independent

state. These two issues are very important, but the second one is kind of tricky because West Papua is under Indonesia. So we decided that we should deal with this as a bilateral issue with the state of Indonesia."

He noted: "The leaders made a decision to move forward but to take it to another forum that is larger than us, and that's the United Nations, most particularly on allegations of human rights violations. At this point, Pacific Island Forum leaders cannot say with certainty there were human rights violations. What we've decided is we will go to the United Nations and try to project our views to them to see if they could help address the issue of West Papua."

According to the Samoan Prime Minister: "There has been much confusion because people did not understand that there are really two issues. One issue is human rights, the other one is self-determination, working towards independence. When you deal with human rights there is no problem on that, but the issue of independence can only be handled at the United Nations."

"It must be understood that West Papua is part of Indonesia and any other way of handling it is interfering with Indonesia's national interests," he added: "That is why the only way to do this is through the United Nations under the right to self-determination."

In his typically forthright manner, Tuilaepa suggested the media misunderstood the issue: "These two issues are separate and that is why there is so much commotion, particularly from you people because you mixed up the whole thing!"

On trade issues, Forum leaders reiterated the need for the PACER-Plus trade agreement to promote regional integration, aiming to complete market access negotiations by

the end of October and sign the treaty by the end of 2016.

With the two largest economies Papua New Guinea and Fiji both withdrawing from the PACER-Plus negotiations, the treaty process is in trouble. In their communique, "leaders noted the withdrawal by Papua New Guinea from PACER-Plus and reservations by Fiji on the current legal text."

With this year's Forum meeting focussing on "the challenge of growth", the retreat held extensive discussions on oceans and fisheries. Leaders announced a series of measures, endorsing a report from a taskforce of regional agencies to boost economic returns from regional fisheries. Beyond existing action by the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) and Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) on tuna, leaders also recognised the need for more action on coastal fisheries, "noting links to communities, food security, health issues and in particular non-communicable diseases."

The Forum endorsed a Pohnpei Oceans Statement, to continue regional collaboration on oceans policy in the lead up to the UN Conference on Oceans and Seas, to be held in New York next June.

They also endorsed the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP), to come into force only after the entry into force of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. The new FRDP - described as "a voluntary, non-political framework" - replaces the previous SDRP strategy that Tuvalu and other states challenged at last year's Forum.

With a strong push from civil society activists in Pohnpei, leaders also endorsed the Pacific Framework for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2016-25.

Germany was welcomed as the latest post-Forum dialogue partner, with the German development agency GIZ a key player in technical support for Pacific responses to climate change. Forum Secretary General Meg Taylor noted: "Germany plays a pivotal role in a lot of the international financial institutions - that was where my focus was when we first had our discussions. They could be very helpful, I think, in helping us access development finance."

Next year's Forum will be held in Samoa, followed by Nauru in 2018 - on their 50th anniversary of independence - and Tuvalu in 2019.....PACNEWS

“A Country Boy’s Dream Comes True” Anecdotes from a Peace Corps Volunteer in Pohnpei

September 17, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—Frank Burkett, who served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Nett Pohnpei 30 years ago has a new book out available for sale in Pohnpei full of anecdotes from his experiences during that time.

He says that readers can read what some of his former students such as Arsenio Wilson now a teacher in Nett, Wayne Mendiola an FSM Education Counselor, and Dulan Suomaii, the PICS basketball coach, and dozens more had to say about life then.

“Read about the fact that the price of a Chicken at KCCA was 5 dollars and that today it’s 5 dollars and 10 cents,” he writes. “How Mr. Burkett had already hunted and killed Turkey long before arriving on Pohnpei but discovered the great taste of ‘Turkey Tails’ here; why he would never play with a dog; taking a shower in the Creek and about NEVER sharing your Toilet Paper or letting someone borrow it and many more stories for your pleasure.”

He said that Mr. Primo Loyola of Nett, Mrs. Dolorie Hadley of Pohnpei Hospital, and FSM Vice President George already have their copies.

The books can be purchased directly from Mr. Burkett. The book is \$22 and postage is \$1.50. Checks should be made payable to Edward F. Burkett and P.O. Box 2006; Kolonia, Pohnpei 96941 FSM.

The Kaselehlie Press also has a copy of his book and will be doing a review in the coming weeks.

Pacific Island Leaders endorse regional framework for building resilience to climate change and disasters

POHNPEI, 15 SEPTEMBER 2016 (PIFS) — In a world first, Pacific Island Forum Leaders have endorsed an integrated regional framework to build resilience to climate change and disasters. The Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP) promotes partnerships and coordinated action to ensure that communities at the local, national and regional levels are central to their sustainable development.

“Recent devastation from Typhoon Maysak and cyclones like Pam and Winston highlight the need for collective action to build resilience and address climate change and disasters in our region. This Framework complements national policies on climate change and disaster risk management and marks an important step towards a more resilient Pacific.” said Forum Chair and President of Federated States of Micronesia, Peter M. Christian.

The Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific: An Integrated Approach to Address Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management (FRDP) was endorsed by Leaders during the 47th Pacific Island Forum meeting in the Federated States of Micronesia. Pacific Leaders agreed for it to be fully elaborated and operationalised upon the entry into force of the Paris Agreement.

Emphasising the importance of immediate, significant and coordinated practical action to address climate change and disaster risk management, Pacific Leaders agreed upon seven principles embodied in the Pohnpei Statement: Strengthening Pacific Resilience to Climate Change and Disaster Risk.

Leaders also tasked the Forum Secretariat to convene a Working Group, including Members, CROP agencies and stakeholders, to



PIF Secretary General Dame Meg Taylor elaborate on the Pacific Resilience Partnership (PRP) process by December 2016 to implement the FRDP.

The Framework and the proposed Pacific Resilience Partnership will ensure that climate change and disasters are understood as a development challenge with priority actions to address vulnerability to climate change and disasters and build resilience across all sectors... PACNEWS

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FSM establishes Diplomatic Relations with the Government of Kuwait

FSM Information Services

September 2, 2016

The Government of the Federated States of Micronesia and the Government of Kuwait formalized diplomatic relations at a ceremony held at the Permanent Mission of Kuwait to the United Nations in New York on 1 September 2016. The Permanent Representative of the Federated States of Micronesia to the United Nations, Ambassador Jane J. Chigiyal, and her Kuwaiti counterpart, Ambassador Mansour Ayyad Al-Otaibi, signed a joint communiqué establishing diplomatic relations between the two States.

The Joint Communiqué confirms the commitment of both States to the objectives and principles of the United Nations in consolidating international peace and security, and also conveys the agreement of both States for their diplomatic relations to be driven by the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the 1963 Vienna Convention on Consular Relations and international law, particularly those pertaining to mutual respect for

independence, sovereign equality, territorial integrity, non-interference in the internal affairs of other States, and free exercise of the right to self-determination.

The Communiqué expresses the desires of both States to promote relations of friendship and cooperation between their respective peoples and two countries in political, economic, and cultural fields, both at the national and international levels.

In a brief exchange following the formal ceremony, Ambassadors Chigiyal and Al-Otaibi touched on matters of common interest and opportunities for further bilateral cooperation, like the Kuwait Fund for Economic Development.

The State of Kuwait becomes the first state from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to enter into diplomatic relations with the Federated States of Micronesia. While the signing formally established diplomatic relation between the two countries, Micronesia's involvement in Kuwait dated back to January 1991, during what would be called Operation Desert Storm—a military operation to expel occupying Iraqi forces from Kuwait, which Iraq had invaded and annexed months earlier; Micronesian citizens in the US Armed Forces participated in that military operation and subsequent military operations like Operation Desert Shield.

...PIF

Continued from front page

"The Paris agreement and the praise that has come to the Pacific people for their relentless effort to bring attention to the subject and capture even the sceptics is a gold medal not to be denied," Micronesia President Peter Christian told the ceremony.

Cook Islands Prime Minister Henry Puna said the countries on the frontline of climate change must now keep up the pressure.

"Whilst the Paris Declaration was a milestone decision, the imperative is now to mobilise a global action plan to mitigate against the effects of global warming," he said after arriving on the main island Pohnpei.

"In this respect, as a region with some of the most vulnerable countries to the effects of climate change, it is important the Pacific continue to advocate strongly for global action on climate change."

The theme of this year's meeting is "Small and Far" -- a reference to the economic challenges facing the isolated island nations.

But Marshall Islands President Hilda Heine said the tiny nations would not back away from an issue that threatens their future.

"Some of the smallest and most vulnerable countries on the planet have said loud and clear that even with the Paris agreement in-hand, the fight against climate change is as urgent as ever before," she said.

"Once again, we have committed to lead the world and pursue ambitious action to reduce emissions."

The meeting lasts until Saturday and is followed on Sunday by meetings with observer nations including the United States, China, the European Union and India..... PACNEWS



DIRECTOR – CORPORATE SERVICES

About the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

The Pacific Islands Forum was founded in August 1971 and currently comprises 18 independent and self-governing states and two territories in the Pacific. Forum Leaders meet annually to develop collective responses to regional issues.

The Forum's administrative arm is the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, based in Suva, Fiji. It acts as the Secretariat for Forum-related events, implements decisions by the Leaders, facilitates the delivery of development assistance to member states, and undertakes the political and legal mandates of Forum meetings. The Forum Secretariat is also mandated to coordinate the implementation of the Framework for Pacific Regionalism.

About the Opportunity

An exciting and challenging opportunity exists for the right candidate to join the Secretariat as Director – Corporate Services

The role, which is part of the Senior Management Team at the Secretariat, reports directly to the Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General responsible for Corporate Services. The Director will lead a diverse team delivering key results to drive deeper regional cooperation and integration. She/he is ultimately accountable for the results identified under Key Result Area (KRA) 5 – Corporate Services and its Sub KRA's. The Director ensures Team Leaders and their teams under his/her supervision deliver agreed results in each output area and Sub KRA.

The Director's primary role is to enable Team Leaders and their teams to deliver the expected results. The Director is the strategic leader, facilitator, collaborator, risk assessor, manager, guide, performance monitor and evaluator of the Team Leaders and their teams, working under his/her direction. The Director will need to support his/her Team Leaders to deliver results and will be held accountable for their performance.

About the Benefits

The appointments carries a competitive remuneration and benefits package including medical and life insurance. The starting salary will be in the range of SDR53,463 to SDR60,146 per annum. At the 1 July 2016 exchange rate this salary range was equivalent to FJD157,337 to FJD177,004. For non-Fijian nationals, this salary may be tax-free.

To be eligible for this position, the applicant must be a national of a Forum member countries*. Applicants must be willing to travel periodically via economy class.

Interested applicants are encouraged to apply through our website: www.forumsec.org where an information package containing the job description and remuneration details is also available. Candidates must include in either their application or Curriculum Vitae the full contact details of three referees.

The Forum Secretariat is an Equal Opportunity Employer and encourages both women and men to apply for its positions.

Deadline for applications is at 5pm (Fiji time), 21 October 2016.

* Member States and Territories of the Pacific Islands Forum: Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

Pohnpei celebrates the 37th Liberation Day Games

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

September 12, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM— For 37 years Pohnpei has celebrated its liberation from Japanese occupiers who held Pohnpei since they took it from Germany during World War I. For many years the Liberation Day celebration has been preceded by games culminating on September 11. This year's ceremony was held on September 12.

On September 11, 1945, U.S. Naval forces accepted the surrender of Japanese forces in Pohnpei and raised the American flag ending the Japanese occupation here.

The games, which involved friendly competition amongst the municipalities and the outer islands have been going on for several weeks now. Sports competition included track and field which was done on September 12 at PICS Track. With 15, Nett took the largest number of gold medals in those competitions, followed by Sokehs which took a total of 34 medals compared to Nett's 29 but managed 8 gold medals. Kitti also had 8 gold medals. The municipality had a total of 30 medals.

Nett men and Sokehs women took the Micro All Around.

Kitti had 12 gold medals in wrestling, followed by Nett which had 10, and Sokehs which had two.

In weightlifting, Mwoakilloa dominated with four gold medals followed by Kitti with three and Kolonia with one. They were the only municipalities to enter competitors as best as we could tell from the medal tallies sent after press deadline.

In Baseball, Kolonia won the gold, followed by Kitti with the silver, and Nett with the bronze.

We were unable to decipher exactly what happened in basketball because of the way the results were labeled other than to say that Kolonia score a gold and a silver medal in what the results way were "men and women" competitions. Kitti scored a silver and Nett a bronze in men's competition, and Kapingamarangi scored a gold, and Sokehs a bronze in women's competition.

In football, Kolonia edged out Nett in championship play for the gold medal in a score of 3-2. Kitti got the bronze medal. One team lost out due to forfeiture after they showed up over an hour late.



Again, due to the labeling difficulty of the medals tally it is difficult for us to determine what exactly happened in softball other than to say that in Men's and Women's events Kolonia scored a gold and a bronze. In men's and women's events Nett scored a bronze and a silver. The results don't say which is which and it was impossible for any single person to attend all of the events. U took the gold for women's competition and Madolenihmw took the silver for men's events.

Nett, Kolonia and Madolenihmw put up teams for the canoe race which borrows the Polynesian term Va'a for the races. Nett's men and women apparently scored a gold medal in that event. Kolonia's women took silver as did Madolenimw's men.

In volleyball Kitti dominated with both men and women's teams taking gold in fierce competition. Nett's men took silver and Madolenihmw's men took bronze. In women's competition, Nukuoro took silver and Kolonia took bronze.

The swimming events were held on the day of the plenary session for the Pacific Island Forum. Organizers say that more than 300 spectators were there for the events. Nett won 16 Gold, 10 Silver, and 8 Bronze medals. Kitti had 2 Gold, 7 Silver and 9 Bronze medals. U had four Gold, 5 Silver and 4 Bronze medals. Kolonia won one Bronze medal.

The results from swimming were not incorporated into the overall medal tally which is still incomplete.

Last year Pohnpei boxers held an exhibition match in conjunction with the Liberation Day games. This was the first year that boxing has been included as a medal sport in the Liberation Day games.

Not all of those who wanted to compete were able to do so for safety reasons. Organizers say that potential boxers were not allowed to participate until they had been screened by the FSM Boxing Federation. "We require countless hours of training before they can even get in the ring to spar let alone compete," he said. "Safety is our main concern and will only put someone in the ring when they are good and ready. We don't want it turn out to be a backyard brawl. Technique and conditioning is very important."

KPress simply doesn't have space to list all of the winners and runners up of each sporting event but since this was the first officially recognized boxing tournament for the Liberation Games we will recognize the competitors in each event. Blood did flow and there was one knock down, but no one was severely injured.

Lightweight: Sean Irons of Nett over Devon Linus of Sokehs
Welterweight: JT Edmund of Nett winner over Kurt Ramires of U
Welterweight: Dalton Kihleng of U winner over Mark Abello of Nett
Middleweight: John Joseph of U winner over Mike Abello of Nett
Main Event- Light Welterweight: Royce Rott of Kolonia Town winner over Kenneth Edmund of Nett

Organizers did not present actual physical medals.

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Opinion Editorial

“Liberate the mind and strive for unity” – Liberation Day Games

By Avalon Edward

Pohnpei, FSM—For the past couple of years – there have been only 3-4 women teams for the basketball tournament in part of the Liberation Games. This year, however, seven teams (Kapinga, Kolonia, Kitti, Sokehs, Mwoakilloa, Nett, and Sapwuahfik) signed up. It was an exciting tournament as the competition pool nearly doubled!

All was well until playoffs – Team Sapwuahfik was to play against a team that it had previously beaten without its full roster. Again, because of schedule difficulties – Team Sapwuahfik had to round up players in order to have enough players to face off their opposition. As the buzzer sounded off – Team Sapwuahfik cheered as they managed to defeat the opposing team for the second time. The cheer was premature as they found out that the opposing team was protesting against one of Team Sapwuahfik’s players.

The protest was made against Mary-Ann Lekka, whose father is from Sapwuahfik

and mother from Nukuoro. Mary-Ann is an athletic person and has represented Pohnpei in the most recent Micro Games for the Women’s Basketball Team (one of the starting players). For years – Mary-Ann has been protested against because she plays volleyball for Team Nukuoro and basketball for another municipal. The simple fact being – Team Nukuoro has never had a basketball team for women. For the past couple of years – Mary-Ann has played for Team Kolonia, where she resides – but ends up not going past playoffs because of protests made against her. This year – she joined Team Sapwuahfik, a new team and one that did not have a volleyball team. And yet despite the fact that Mary-Ann has both Sapwuahfik and Nukuoro blood – she was protested against, once again.

During the final game, there may have been some “misunderstanding” but Mary-Ann was under the impression that if the opposing team would protest – the officials would then subtract any scores she made during the game. Mary-Ann kept that in mind and only attempted and

made one shot – assisting the players on her team. Which was why when the protest was issued – Team Sapwuahfik did not think too much of it – because they had won by double digits. Yet, after two lengthy meetings with the Protest Committee – the protest was accepted and Team Sapwuahfik “lost” a game that it had rightfully won.

Rightfully won because according to the Competition Brief (Basketball Tournament) created by the Pohnpei Sports Commission – the eligibility criteria for the 2016 Liberation Day Games Basketball Tournament are as follows:

1. Citizenship or voter of an entity
2. Parents or grandparents are from that entity (Heritage)
3. Residence of an entity
4. Marriage

When Sports Director, Patterson Anson, was asked about the rulings for the Liberation Basketball Games – he responded that the tournament was “conducted and coordinated using all applicable Rules and Regulations in accordance to FIBA.”

Nowhere in the Competition Brief was there any mention that a citizen could not play for two municipals. And when asked – Pohnpei Sports Office was not able to provide the appropriate document for such ruling. The only thing pertaining to Protests in the Competition Brief is the procedure for which a team is to follow in petitioning for a protest.

With the protest being accepted by the Basketball Protesting Committee – Team Sapwuahfik was denied the chance to move forward in the playoff bracket.

The purpose of this article is not to dwell on the case of Ms. Mary-Ann or cast negative perspective on Pohnpei Sports Office. No, the purpose of this article is to address a “rule” that has denied dozens of citizens the right to play in the Liberation Games despite the fact that their municipals did not have a competing team in a sport. Because how can one limit himself/herself to one municipal when he/she is from three or even more? How do you choose which side to play for? Should we play for our mother’s side this year and father the next? It would be understandable if the two municipals had teams for both sports – but in Mary-Ann’s case and with so many others – not all municipals are able to compete in every sport.

This article is a reminder of why we celebrate Liberation Games with municipal games.

On September 12, 2016 – the whole island gathered at the Track and Field for the last hurrah of the 37th Liberation Games. People cheered and laughed and cheered some more. At the last event (4X100 Relay) the Track and Field organizers divided the men’s relay into two because they had more than one team for a couple of municipals and one team with mixed municipals. Despite the “rule” they were able to compete. Fortunately, there were no protesters. It was then that I was reminded, yet again, the purpose of Liberation Games. It is not to compete or to gain the most wins. The purpose of the Liberation Games is to celebrate in unity. We celebrate because we were liberated from foreign rule. After all, that is the purpose of Liberation Games – isn’t it? Why must we go through these bogus protests year after year? So what if someone plays for two municipals – we are all from one state – one people. If we continue to focus on competition and winning – then we have lost sight of the goal. A wise person once said, “We may have been liberated from foreign rule and oppression, but we are still bound by our own crippling mentality.” Let us liberate the mind and strive for unity.



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POA Office Admin Officer–Pohnpei

Location:

The Office Admin Officer will be based in Pohnpei, but may undertake duty related travel through the Pacific and Asian region.

Job purpose summary:

The main role of the Office Admin Officer will be to assist the Observer Program Manager and Pohnpei Port Coordinator in the coordination of observer placements on vessels in the North Pacific region, and associated tasks. The Office Admin Officer will also assist in the administration and day-to-day running of the POA Pohnpei Office under the guidance of the Port Coordinator and Office Administrator.

Job duties:

The main responsibilities and duties of the position will be to:

- Assist in the coordination of observer placements on relevant vessels transshipping in Pohnpei, and other ports as required;
- Assist in the coordination of pre-debriefing and debriefing of observers;
- Manage the issuing, receipt and storage of relevant POA observer equipment;
- Assist in the day-to-day operation of POA Pohnpei Office under the direction of the POA Port Coordinator and Administrator.

Other tasks as agreed with the Observer Program Manager from time to time.

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of working hours on:**

**Wednesday
September 28,
2016**

Geo-politics at play over Leader's lack of expressed commitment on West Papua

SUVA, 13 SEPTEMBER 2016 (PIANGO) ---- Pacific leaders' lack of expressed commitment to action the case of West Papua at their meeting in Federated States of Micronesia may be due to geo politics says Pacific Islands Association of NGOs (PIANGO) executive director, Emele Duituturaga.



"Generally, the result of the 47th Pacific Islands Forum Leaders meeting as articulated in their communiqué was a mixed one for civil society," Duituturaga said.

"We are happy that some of the issues we pushed for like the Pacific Framework for the Rights of Persons with Disability, Climate Change and disaster risk management, and coastal fisheries were endorsed by the leaders and reflected in the communiqué."

"For West Papua – while the human rights violations were mentioned, the push by CSOs to have West Papua raised at the United Nations is not reflected," she said.

On West Papua, the 47th PIF Leaders meeting communiqué stated that "... Leaders recognised the political sensitivities of the issue of West Papua (Papua) and agreed the issue of alleged human rights violations in West Papua (Papua) should remain on their agenda. Leaders also agreed on the importance of an open and constructive dialogue with Indonesia on the issue..."

"An achievement is the agreement to keep the issue of human rights violations should remain on the leaders agenda. We know that a couple of members had hoped the issue of West Papua would be removed altogether."

"We understand from talking individually to leaders and officials that there were robust discussions by the leaders that was quite encouraging. We also know that the draft text reflected their intention to take West Papua to the UN but when the final communiqué was released, it had been watered down," Duituturaga said.

"It is obvious that geo politics were at play which brings to question whether in fact our leaders can be bold and courageous in the presence of neighbouring powers like Australia and New Zealand." She said that the 16 CSO representatives at the TROIKA leader's breakfast dialogue felt successful and promising discussions were held on the issue.

"All those present expressed sentiments that the issue of West Papua – both in terms of human rights violations and self-determination were important. What those leaders at the breakfast articulated was that there are provisions in the UN that needed to be followed and utilised to bring the issue to the UN."

"We are concerned that this promising dynamic in the discussion civil society organisation representatives had with leaders at the breakfast was not present at all in the communiqué."

"Perhaps there is limited value to just talking to a handful and whether that makes an impact to the final discussions that leaders have at the retreat."

"The Samoan Prime Minister, who is the

next PIF Chair had stated at the breakfast meeting that the CSO dialogue needed to take place with all the 16 leaders and not just TROIKA and he will see to that for next year's PIF programme. This result (Communiqué) seems to confirm that this is really what's needed to be done in order for leaders to commit to taking the issue to the UN."

However, Duituturaga said the Pacific Islands Coalition on West Papua (PICWP), which includes Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Republic of Marshall Islands, Nauru and Tuvalu and PIANGO, is an avenue which CSOs will tap into to continue to push the West Papua agenda at the UN.

"What is encouraging and positive however, is how PICWP member countries have visibly shown their commitment to take up the issue."

Duituturaga said PIANGO will now work individually with those countries for UN intervention on human rights violations and to push for self-determination for West Papua at the UN General Assembly, the UN Human Rights Council and raise these matters with the UN Secretary General..... PACNEWS

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REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

(Deadline for Submission of EOI 30 September 2016)

The Government of the FSM has financial assistance from the World Bank to support its ICT sector reform program and infrastructure investment activities. The Department of Transportation, Communication & Infrastructure (DTC&I) is responsible for overall monitoring and implementation of the project and has hired a Project Coordinator to carry out the project objectives in accordance with the policy objectives of the Government and in compliance with all World Bank requirements. DTC&I seek an Assistant Project Coordinator to support the Project Coordinator's implementation of the project.

General Scope of Work

The Project Officer will report to the Project Coordinator and provide general administrative and logistical support for project implementation, including record keeping, project reporting, and project communications. The Project Coordinator will work collaboratively with the project Finance Officers at the FSM Department of Finance & Administration, and assist with the processing of all project related requisitions, payments, consultant contract monitoring and procurements. A full copy of the Terms of Reference for the position is available upon request from the DTC&I Project Coordinator or at www.ict.fm. An abbreviated summary of the scope of work is as follows.

Procurement Related Activities

The Project Officer will work with the Project Coordinator and other DTC&I staff on procurement requirements of the project to ensure that all procurement is conducted in accordance with the provisions in the legal agreements between the Work Bank and the FSM. Procurement related responsibilities include:

- (i) Procurement Management
- (ii) Vendor/Contract Management
- (iii) Procurement Reporting and Outputs

General Administration and Logistics

Under the direction of the Project Coordinator provide administrative and logistical support to the program as needed.

Qualifications

- Tertiary education from a recognized institution in Business Administration, Commerce or other relevant degree.
- Minimum of five years of relevant experience.
- Experience with working in a team environment.
- Fluency in written and spoken English.
- Competency in the use of computer applications, especially MS Office, Word, PowerPoint and Excel
- Demonstrated ability to work under pressure and pay attention to detail.
- Knowledge of government policies and procedures for both government funds and grant fund implementation is preferred.



Remuneration and Duration

- \$25,000 (negotiable depending on qualifications)
- This position is exempt from the FSM National Government Public Service System
- This will be a 1-year full-time position with DTC&I renewable subject to performance and project need for the duration of the project (project close date is January 2020)

Application

DTCI invites qualified persons to express their interest for this position by submitting electronic copies of a letter of interest, CV, certified degrees and 3 references to DTCI no later than September 30, 2016. Selection will be in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers (January 2011 edition). Inquiries and application materials should be submitted electronically to:

Mr. Aaron L. Warren, Project Coordinator
Mobile: 691-925-4334 Tel: 691-320-2381/2865
alw.fsm@gmail.com/cc: transcom@mail.fm

Mr. Dwight Edwards, Assistant Secretary for Personnel Administration, FSM Department of Administration and Finance
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Smaller island states discuss joint bid to Green Climate Fund

By Nic Maclellan in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia

PALIKIR, POHNPEI 09 SEPTEMBER 2016 (ISLANDS BUSINESS) --- Pacific leaders from smaller island states are considering a joint approach to the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the new global fund to assist developing countries respond to the adverse effects of climate change.

As leaders from the 16 member countries gather in Pohnpei for the 47th Pacific Islands Forum, the issue of climate finance is an ongoing concern for countries devastated by cyclones, ocean acidification and other extreme weather events.

Cook Islands Prime Minister Henry Puna said: "Climate finance of course is very, very important for the smaller island states - as it is for all Pacific countries. However it is especially so for the smaller island states, because of our vulnerability and our fragility and the fact that we are right at the frontline off the impacts of climate change."

As leaders of Smaller Island States (SIS) held their annual pre-Forum meeting, there was extensive discussion about the difficulties of obtaining the financial and technical resources needed to adapt to climate change.

As incoming chair of the SIS group, Puna said access to the GCF and other multilateral funds was a constant worry for small states, which often lack technical and scientific resources to prepare submissions for funding.

"One of the ways that was put forward was for us to consider a joint approach to submit applications to the GCF," he said. "Perhaps by doing that we might have some success in terms of getting some much needed resources from GCF."

Puna added: "The joint approach acknowledges one reality that is common to all the smaller island states - the lack of human resources to work on funding proposals. As you'll appreciate, these funding proposals are very complicated and in many cases are beyond the capacity of many states where human resources are lacking."

Even after the signing of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, Forum island countries continue to press for extra resources to transform their energy systems using renewable energy, as well as adapt to climactic effects on health, agriculture, fisheries and livelihoods.

The Paris Agreement calls on donors and funding institutions "to enhance the

coordination and delivery of resources to support country-driven strategies through simplified and efficient application and approval procedures."

At the SIS special summit in Palau on 24 June, SIS Leaders stressed the need for "a collective, coordinated and targeted approach between SIS and relevant partners to identify options to improve and expedite access to climate financing to address economies of scale, including through an SIS joint proposal to relevant climate financing arrangements and support for its subsequent implementation."

Meeting last week with US President Obama in Hawaii for the Pacific Island Leaders Conference - a precursor meeting to this week's Forum - island leaders again stressed the difficulty of accessing climate finance.

The PILC communique noted: "We seek the US's political support to facilitate simplified access to climate finance for the Pacific island region, through the Green Climate Fund Board, and other climate finance entities. We further encourage the US Government to meet its pledge under the Green Climate Fund."

The same message will be carried to this Saturday's leaders' retreat, where Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and his New Zealand counterpart John Key will join with island leaders.

Australia and Samoa are well placed to assist this process. Australian foreign affairs official Ewen McDonald serves as Co-Chair of the GCF Board, while Samoa's Ambassador to the United Nations Ali'ioaiga Feturi Elisaia is the Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) representative on the Board.

In principle, this new global fund is designed to allow national institutions to gain accreditation and lodge proposals for support. Once accredited, they can access and administer financial resources directly from the Fund.

A major challenge remains the accreditation of national and regional institutions from the Pacific. By June 2016, 33 entities around the world had been accredited to the GCF, but currently the Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP) is the only regional organisation accredited as a Direct Access Entity.

Only Fiji and Tuvalu have currently had GCF grants approved, although other nations like Vanuatu and Cook Islands are undertaking "readiness" activities to prepare proposals.

In partnership with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Fiji will receive a US\$31 million grant for Urban Water Supply and Wastewater Management. At its meeting in June 2016, the GCF also approved a US\$38.8 million grant for the Tuvalu Coastal Adaptation Project (TCAP), to be implemented by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

Despite his country's successful bid for GCF funding, Tuvalu Prime Minister Enele Sopoaga still believes that there are too many roadblocks for smaller island states.

Speaking after this week's SIS meeting, Sopoaga noted: "The hope is that smaller island states could access this funding from the Green Climate Fund as soon as possible, and the procedures and requirements for paperwork would be further reduced, so we can access this important facility to help them adapt to impacts of climate change."

At a recent regional discussion on the GCF in Fiji, Samoa's Ambassador Feturi Elisaia encouraged island nations to be bold, arguing that there are resources available. He said there is no need to stop working with partners like the ADB or UNDP while waiting for national accreditation.

"Tuvalu has already proven that," he said. "Tuvalu worked with UNDP and Fiji has worked with the ADB - the very entities that people are complaining about as if they are taking the money."

Samoa is aiming to assist other Pacific island countries, by hosting a meeting of the GCF Board in Apia later this year. There was previously a GCF board meeting in Barbados in 2014, but this is the first time the GCF Board and Secretariat will come to the Pacific, an opportunity to understand the climate challenges faced by vulnerable communities in our ocean.

Australia's role is co-Chair of the Fund provides potential support, but the predictability of climate funding from Canberra has been a problem in recent years, with former Prime Minister Tony Abbott reluctant to promote strong action on climate change. In 2013, Australia withdrew from its role on the GCF Board, and refused to commit funds to the new global mechanism.

This policy was only reversed after Abbott was replaced by current Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, who arrives in Pohnpei on Friday for this week's summit.

At COP20 in Lima, the Australian government pledged A\$200 million over four years for the GCF. Then Prime Minister Abbott and Foreign Minister Julie Bishop announced: "The pledge to the Green



SIS Chair Cook Islands Prime Minister Henry Puna

Climate Fund will facilitate private sector led economic growth in the Indo-Pacific region with a particular focus on investment in infrastructure, energy, forestry ...and emissions reduction programs."

The focus on the role of the GCF in "private sector led economic growth" and investment in infrastructure and energy raises questions about the priority to be given to adaptation funding for Pacific island governments and communities. This concern is reinforced by a 2015 OECD climate financing report, which notes that: "Japan and Australia consider that financing for high efficiency coal plants should also be considered as a form of climate finance."

Any prioritising of clean coal technology to large Asian nations like China, Indonesia and India will distort the already constrained climate financing package away from crucial adaptation needs in Pacific island nations, where there is limited potential for significant private sector co-financing.

While Australia already has a rough balance between funds allocated for adaptation and mitigation, New Zealand currently allocates an estimated 80 per cent of its climate finance towards renewable energy projects, rather than initiatives to help people prepare for disasters and adapt to long term environmental changes.

Despite tough economic times, the two largest Forum members will need to increase their allocations, in order to meet their fair share of the global climate finance target (US\$100 billion in public and private funds each year, by 2020).

In Paris last December, Prime Minister See "Green Climate Fund" on next page

Education Corner:

Richard Womack, Ed.D

Last EC we said we were changing our format to the Case Study approach. We will not abandon our message however. All teachers can improve student learning if they diligently pursue On-going Teacher Training.

Case Study: Navarro Navarro

A long, long time ago EBC (even before computers), Navarro Navarro sat in his small room in a small village a few miles from the capital of his island-state. As he sat quietly, he thought of his predicament. He was 22 years old and that very Sunday morning he had accepted a job teaching the 5th grade at a local Catholic elementary school-Mt. St. Mary's. Navarro had not trained to be a teacher at the University of California, Berkeley but rather as a resource geographer. Four years before, Navarro had gone to the States after two years at the local college. At Berkeley, his focus was conservation, human and physical geography but never once had he thought about teaching. He asked himself that morning in church in prayer form, "God, why did I even come back to this island?" But here he was on a Sunday evening with a major predicament. Navarro was to begin teaching the 5th grade at eight o'clock the very next morning—Monday morning.

For sure young Navarro was a bit frightened. He had taken the job in part because he had no job and he thought to himself, "The pay is peanuts but enough to put gas in the old car and food on the old table. Besides, it will just be a temporary thing until some good paying government job opens up." He knew that teachers were supposed to have some kind of training but exactly what kind of training he did not know. In the contract, he agreed to coach the boys' sports after school for an extra \$40 a month. That would be easy. He could show the boys how to play football, basketball, and baseball. He could teach the idea of teamwork. But could he teach 5th graders about English? In his school years, Navarro recalled hearing teachers talk about night school and summer school. Navarro reckoned that training was on-going and that made sense to him. After all, teaching was a profession and Navarro knew that professional people must always be going to school. He guessed therefore that if he ever continued with this teaching job, he would always be going to school. The thought of always going to school was not a pleasant thought nor was it unpleasant. Navarro liked going to school especially

if the instructor was a good one. But these thoughts quickly vanished. "Future training will be of no use to me tomorrow morning at eight." He had accepted the job with no instruction or teacher training at all. None. Navarro realized that Mt. St. Mary's must have been desperate, very desperate indeed, to have hired him. Principal Mary Francetta had explained that at the last moment the teacher scheduled for the 5th grade had become seriously ill. So a signature on a contract that morning young Navarro was a teacher. The contract had the title of teacher so legally he guessed he was a teacher but inside he knew he was a long way from being a real teacher.

As he drove around that Sunday afternoon he thought to himself, "It can't be that hard-- can it? It's the 5th grade—a little history, geography, science, maybe some health, and of course math and English." Navarro tried to recall what he had learned in the 5th grade. "Was it fractions or percent's?" He recalled learning his multiplication tables at the end of the 3rd grade. So a 5th grader should know the times tables ... at least Navarro hoped so. For English he wondered "Was it parts of speech and sentence writing or was it paragraphs and more complicated stuff?" The young man panicked when he thought of diagramming sentences. "Oh, dear God, not diagramming sentences," thought Navarro. That was parts of speech and lines all over the page and the sort of things that always stood in his path of the almighty A. English had been Navarro's most dreaded subject in school. Although he loved reading, he remembered that many of the books assigned by the English teachers were not all that interesting. Navarro liked reading without thinking about plots, characters, symbols or similes and metaphors. His panic increased when he thought his duties might include teaching reading. He had forgotten the diagramming but at least he remembered there were parts of speech involved. But teaching reading? He could not even remember how he had learned to read English. "One day, I was not reading and the next day I was reading." That was the best Navarro could do. He was good at English and he knew that while he could read, write and speak English, there would be something more to teaching English and God forbid, reading. "Certainly they can read," or so he hoped. Lastly he realized that his own good English was the key to his own academic success. His Pohnpeian was pretty good but he had succeeded academically because of his English skills.

Readers: Navarro Navarro is quite unusual for a beginning teacher today. For many years PDOE hired teachers with the associate degrees (minimum requirements) in Liberal Arts or even Business. These individuals were fortunate to have a job but unfortunate in that they had no idea of How to Teach. Today PDOE seeks local teachers with an Associate of Arts in Pre-teacher education, a Third Year Certificate and the Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education. All of this education and passing the National Teachers Test will give a local teacher full certification. Full certification, however, should never mean that On-going Teacher Training is not necessary. There are no teachers who cannot benefit from the latest content or the most recent methods
You will continue to find that Navarro is quite confident about the subjects he will teach except English. We will soon find out that he is very good in all subjects—except English and reading teaching methods. Also Navarro has thought of something very important for an ESL country teacher-knowing English is much different than teaching English. We hope you will follow Navarro Navarro as he struggles to become a good teacher—a little hint—he falls in love with his class by Friday—and never again thinks about that "good government job."

...Green Climate Fund

Continued from previous page

Turnbull pledged A\$1 billion over the next five years – but this headline figure still means that the level of Australian funding has remained relatively steady since 2010, averaging A\$200 million per year. In contrast, OECD countries like France, Germany and the United States significantly increased their funding in the lead up to the Paris Agreement, while large developing nations such as China have also agreed to contribute to global funding initiatives.

Currently, climate funds pledged by Australia are drawn exclusively from its overseas aid budget. However, since 2013, Australia's aid budget has fallen four times in a row, currently down to 0.23 per cent of gross national income (the lowest level in history). Cutbacks in the level of aid have meant a lack of predictability in funding, which makes it difficult for Pacific governments and NGOs to make commitments towards long-term planning, budgeting, recruitment and training of staff.

Despite these challenges, Pacific officials working on climate finance are positive about the opportunities to gain further resources.

In Fiji last July, Samoa's Ambassador Feturi Elisaia says that the GCF had learnt a lot from the operation of other funding mechanisms, such as the World Bank's Climate Investment Funds and the Pacific stands to benefit from these learnings.

"Sometimes it's good to be at the back of the queue because you can learn from some of the challenges that other funds have," he said. "That is what we are doing purposely – to find what the other funds are not doing, that we should rectify so we don't make the same mistakes.... PACNEWS

(Nic Maclellan is co-author, with Sarah Meads, of the new Oxfam research report "After Paris: Climate Finance in the Pacific Islands").

John Key announces \$5 million package for renewable energy projects in Micronesia

POHNPEI, 10 SEPTEMBER 2016 (TVNZ) --- New Zealand Prime Minister John Key has announced a \$5 million support package for renewable energy projects in the Federated States of Micronesia at the Pacific Islands Forum today.

The funding will allow the development of up to 400kW of solar generated power in Palau, the Republic of Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia - the renewable equivalent of about half a million litres of fuel per annum.

Key said the package is part of the \$100 million in support announced by New Zealand at the Pacific Energy Conference earlier this year.

The Conference resulted in commitments of over \$1 billion from international donors for renewable energy across the region.

"New Zealand is committed to boosting the supply of renewable energy across the Pacific in order to help Pacific nations build resilience, and reduce both emissions and dependence on imported diesel," said Prime Minister Key.... PACNEWS

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US Embassy welcomes Ambassador Riley



On the evening of September 5, 2016, the US Embassy held a formal reception at the official residence to welcome US Ambassador to the FSM Robert A. Riley and his wife Timmy to the FSM.

The Late Bill Raynor's Estate's Donation to Island Food Community of Pohnpei

By: *Mona J. Tara*

Island Food Community of Pohnpei (IFCP) is a non government organization that started in 2004 with the help of late Dr. Lois Englberger, late Mr. Bill Raynor, Mr. Adelino Lorens and some very committed Pohnpeians who believed that Pohnpei's own local food is full of Vitamin A and other healthy benefits.

IFCP Vision: To live on an Island where, with self-respect and dignity, people are actively producing and utilizing locally grown foods which is assuring a healthy environment and achieving food security.

IFCP Mission: Promote the production and growth of local food among island communities to achieve CHEEF benefits.

On September 9, 2016, IFCP attended an award ceremony that was held at the Micronesian Conservation Trust office to receive a gift from Mr. Bill Raynor's Estate. This ceremony was a very important one for us and also was the first time that IFCP was invited to such ceremony. The late Bill Raynor was one of the few that started Island Food Community of Pohnpei in 2004. He was a board member from 2004 until late 2010 when he (because of his other important duties) became a "permanent board" member. At that time, his advise were still part of guiding IFCP. Mr. Adelino Lorens, the current Chairman of IFCP Board of Directors said a few words about Mr. Raynor and the vital role he played in establishing the organization the ways in which his legacy continues.

Bill's younger brother, Mr. Tom Raynor, came from California, USA on behalf of Bill Raynor's Estate to physically hand over the donation from Bill's Estate to Island Food Community of Pohnpei. The donation is USD \$10,000.00.

IFCP would like to thank Bill's Estate and all his family for this great assistance.

MCS and FSM- keeping the ocean watch over our tuna resources



Earlier this month, as Pacific leaders arrived in Pohnpei for the 47th Pacific Island Forum, the National Oceanic Resource Management Authority decided to share its story with the media leaders who follow the annual meeting. Pacific journalists and correspondents were invited to tour the Maritime Surveillance Wing and hear about the issue of the 'blue boats' which is a growing and costly challenge for our coastal reefs, our national resources, our maritime surveillance and our judicial and prison systems in dealing with this relatively new phenomenon. Beyond the blue boats, NORMA wanted to highlight ongoing fisheries management and enforcement activities and the regional

vision that would help the media identify with FSM's local story as well as the linkages with what is happening across all nations of the Pacific. How is NORMA working to keep the ocean watch over the FSM's multi-million dollar tuna fisheries?

The evidence that the FSM Patrol Boat and Coastal Watch Programs are working is sitting at the Maritime Surveillance Wing dock. The blue boats plundering the FSM's reef resources for sea cucumber and whatever can be preserved for travel back to their Asian bases, are meant for coastal—not pelagic fisheries. To have the blue boats dockside, between the patrol boats that had brought them in, and the fishing vessels

in port for transshipment activity, is no small irony. If FSM and the Pacific continue the progress and work started on keeping the Ocean watch, there is little doubt that more of these poachers will be found—necessitating the need to come up with a strategy for dealing with these expensive and uninvited guests.

A core concept of fisheries management—Monitoring, Control and Surveillance, or MCS, opens a host of 'tools' with technological advances such as the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) to support the work towards improving monitoring and surveillance capabilities. MCS locks in partnerships with law and justice officials, working closely with the Department of Justice's Maritime Surveillance Wing, to ensure boardings and apprehensions are conducted with the utmost integrity from all parties. Working across many layers of government is part of the changing dimension to NORMA's work, and FSM is not the only Pacific country taking on the large scope of work involved.

A question the FSM and other members of the Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA)

face is choosing the best tools for the situation. What considerations do officials, planners, partners and leaders have to take to ensure management, compliance and enforcement over fisheries and oceanic resources via land, air and sea, are done in way that is smart, efficient, and does not burden resources beyond what can be delivered?

More on MCS and ongoing work of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission in future issues of Fish Talk!



Nan Madol: The Mysterious Ancient City

Story and Images by Anjannet Fredrick by Pohnpei Storytellers

Somewhere in the Pacific Ocean lies the ruins of an ancient city of Nan Madol which is located on Temwen Island, a small outer island of Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia. Nan Madol is composed of many small islets with twisted canals separating the islets. On some of these islets, there are huge rectangular wall constructions of an ancient city . Nan Douwas, one of the islets, holds the biggest construction. The rocks are neatly piled up forming a closed wall with square holes as entrances on the sides. The rocks are not just any small tiny rocks that people can lift but huge basalt rocks that are impossible for the strongest men in Pohnpei to carry. Consequently, the most asked question for visitors is "how was it possible for builders of Nan Madol to build those huge constructions?"

However, as a Pohnpeian, I strongly believe in the oral history that was passed down from our ancestors about the creation of Nan Madol. According to the oral history that I have learned as I grew up, the ancient city of Nan Madol was built by two brothers who were believed to have come from the west of Pohnpei. The two brothers, Olosohpa and Olosihpa, came to Pohnpei seeking for a perfect spot to build a sacred altar so that they can worship their gods. On Pohnpei, they attempted to build their

place of worship on many places but weather and strong current didn't allow for it. The two brothers, then, came to a mountain to look for a suitable place and saw Temwen Island. By using their magic, the two brothers flew huge basalt rocks from other parts of Pohnpei to Nan Madol where they built the ancient city. By the time the construction was finished, one of the brothers died and the other one started the Saudeleur Dynasty.

I grew up on an outer island of Temwen called Mwudokalap which is located near the Nan Madol Ruins. I've gone to Nan Madol a great number of times before just to see the beauty of the ruins and enjoy the cool breeze from the open sea. The view of the open sea and the nearby islands always amazed me. As a small girl, I grew up hearing stories, legends, and myths about Nan Madol from older people but I didn't seem to care about it. On Sundays, I would always see tourists come to Temwen Island to see Nan Madol.

I remember because they used to stop their cars and asked us the direction to Nan Madol Ruins. By that time, I started wondering why they would waste all of their money to fly all the way here to our little island to see those old ruins. I was too small back then to understand the importance of the ruins of Nan Madol to everyone, even a Pohnpeian like me.

The most recent time I visited Nan Madol

was very different because I was with this group of students who shared the same interest in the ruins of Nan Madol. As always, the islets lay quietly as the birds joyfully sang as they fly from tree to tree.

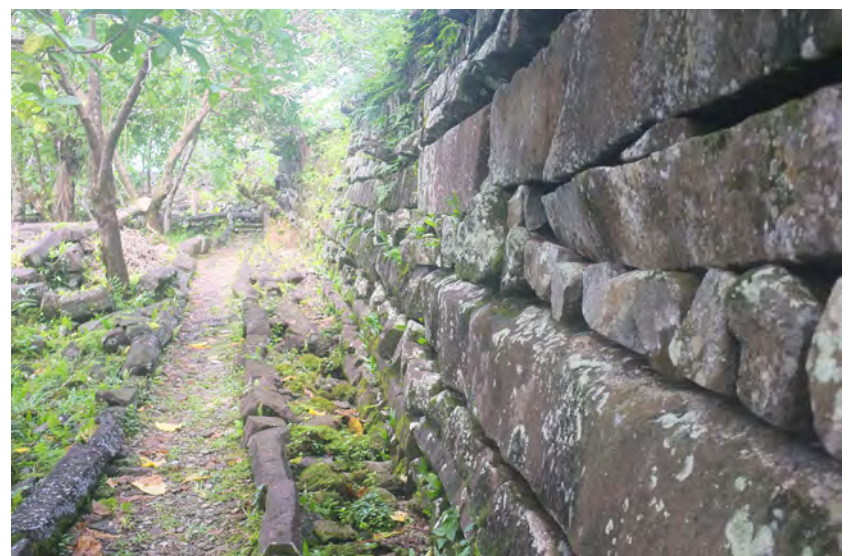
Though nobody lives there today, I can still feel the presence of the people who must have cherished the place. Upon my recent visit, I suddenly felt like I had a connection to my ancestors. At the same time, I felt proud to be a Pohnpeian.

Maybe there is another story behind that special looking sand, but I don't know it. Much of the beauty of Nan Madol lies in the mystery of it. As a Pohnpeian, knowing about the history of Nan Madol is very important. The traditional political



structure of Pohnpei started in Nan Madol. The culture of Pohnpei originated from there as well. The ruins of Nan Madol are the only evidence left for us to believe how great our ancestors were. It will be used as a reminder of how powerful our ancestors were for the magic and skills they must have possessed.

We will always remember our ancestors every time we see the ruins of Nan Madol.



SPC faces financial woes

By *Samisoni Pareti in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia.*

POHNPEI, 09 SEPTEMBER 2016 (ISLANDS BUSINESS) --- As leaders of the Pacific meet in the Federated States of Micronesia this week for their annual summit, the region's oldest and now largest body, the Pacific Community has announced chronic financial problem is forcing it to slash its work programme.

Director General of the Pacific Community Dr Colin Tukuitonga says its current work programmes are unsustainable given the un-proportional increase in deliverables to the non-increase in funding.

"We do too many things and we can't sustain that," Dr Tukuitonga told Pacific journalists that are covering the Pacific Islands Leaders Forum in Pohnpei, capital of FSM.

"Shortly, we will be announcing to the region what we cannot continue to do, unless somebody pays us to do it. We are, perhaps too wide and too shallow. We need to hone in on the things that are important to the region and for us to apply our scientific and technical advise where we have the capability. We are just doing too many things."

Dr Tukuitonga, originally from Niue, did not specify which work programmes of the SPC would be scrapped as he moves to balance the books. There was no mention too of possible

job losses. All he told the group of Pacific journalists was that between 75 to 80 per cent of SPC work is project funded, which means that the donor, not him, decides on how the money is used.

"I have some say [on project funds] but those stuff are determined elsewhere and they don't always align with the priorities we think are important. Herein lies the problem, you might want to implement something, you might think something is important, but sometimes I feel like I am just running to catch up, and its really, really, challenging even for us at SPC, its difficult. So you can imagine what its like for national offices who are expected to deliver on these things.

"It always feels like we are being forced into responding to somebody else's agenda, and at some point, I wish we would all sit down and say, let's put all of these synergies into implementing what's really important.

"But here we are, on a treadmill almost, and you can't get off. Because I think we should stop all of these stuff and start implementing things because otherwise we would keep



going on and on and on like a treadmill."

The SPC is not the only regional organisation that's facing financial woes, brought about by an ever-increasing workload with a static work budget. In a separate briefing, Dr Tukuitonga's counterpart at the Fiji-based secretariat of the Pacific Islands Forum Dame Meg Taylor spoke of the difficulty of 'balancing the books.'

"We've made big changes at the Forum Secretariat. We had a deficit of \$4.1 million. We had to make big budget cuts. We've cut \$2.5 million. We will have a very tough time balancing the budget this year. We need to bring in more specialised staff that can really do the job. We have a good team in place I think. I am very satisfied with a lot of the young ones, and the more senior people, but I would like to see more young people to be

attracted to come and work in these regional organisations and know they can make a difference," said Dame Taylor.

Unlike the Forum Secretariat that Dame Taylor of Papua New Guinea leads, the Pacific Community employs over 600 people in the seven divisions of economic development, fisheries, geoscience, land resources, public health, social development and statistics for development. It has its headquarters in Noumea, capital of the French territory of New Caledonia, and offices in Suva, Honiara and Pohnpei.

According to its annual report, the Pacific Community's total cash inflow amounted to US\$68,439,494 in 2014.

Of this, about \$29 million were from the contributions of member governments, of which 49%, or about \$33 million was for 'salaries and related costs.'

Membership subscription arrears was a little more than \$2 million in 2014, with the United States being the largest debtor, posting a membership fee arrears of \$992,336. Its Pacific territories of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, Guam and American Samoa were also behind in their membership fee payments, as were Nauru, Papua New Guinea and Palau.... PACNEWS



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