

Yap Paradise Islands Project

Who is ETG?

- A PRIVATE company. headquartered in Chengdu. China. Over 15,000 employees so far.

Private? Not at all! ETG, or Chengdu-whatever-they-want-to-call-themselves, Inc., is only “semi-private,” as the Chengdu government (in China, I believe this is about equivalent to the PRC government) was “given” a 30% stake in the enterprise back in 2000. Also, Mr. Deng Hong is a member of the PRC **National People’s Congress**, and one of his senior executives is the former deputy mayor of Chengdu. For his development project next to the national park in western Sichuan, he has hired retired government officials. (Source: [*Lhasa Hotel Boom: The Back Story*](#))

- Main business exhibition, travel and real estate. Total assets (2011), US\$4.5 billion.

And the point here is? What is the source of these assets information?

- A leading travel business operator in China, with a proven track record in developing and managing large scale tourism facilities.

Alas, ETG’s “track record” in Tibet and in the Maldives indicates that they are involved with things that do not exactly “protect and promote” local culture...

- Now growing into an international travel business network, with investments on major hot spots around the world.

“Hot spots,” indeed: **Tibet, Maldives...** Oppression and political upheavals!

- Actively investing in large scale island projects in the Indian and Pacific Ocean.

Interesting coincidence: Autumn of last year (2011-10-24), The Vice President of the Maldives, Dr. **Mohamed Waheed**, returned home after a trip to Chengdu, where he had meetings with (among others) **ETG and Mr. Deng Hong**. Four months later, the democratically elected President of the Maldives is thrown in jail, and the former Vice President became President (ETG is currently in discussions with the Maldives government to **develop a mega-tourist project** in Huvadhu Atoll). This *could* all of course be sheer coincidence, but one has to wonder... (See [here](#) and [here](#)!)

- Sustainable Win/Win partnership with locals is a basic business principle of ETG.

Ask the Tibetans what they think about their “win/win partnership” with ETG!

- Protection of local environment and respect and promotion of local culture are Top Priorities for ETG’s tourism business investments.

This is such blatant BS: if it was so, the proposed development would not be of such massive scale... Which can only **destroy** local culture. I am willing to wager that the top ETG’s “tourism business investment” priority is to **make money**: to suggest other motives is an insult to the People of Yap State! Ask the Tibetans what they think about ETG’s methods for “*protection of local environment*” and “*respect and promotion of local culture*”!

Why Yap?

- Simply a paradise: beautiful nature, crystal clear water, healthy ocean ecosystem (manta, sharks, turtles, corals).

Except for the “paradise” part, which is highly debatable: so far, agreed! Build ten mega-hotels with 400 rooms each, add a few fake beaches, throw in a few golf courses, and the beauty, clear waters, and healthy ocean ecosystems may be severely damaged... Maybe **irreversibly** so. What ETG has in store for Yap is not compatible with anything Yapese.

- Unique and rich culture, nice people, sound legal system and peaceful society.

Unique culture, **yes**. Nice people, **yes**. **Sound legal system**? This is a matter of definition: ETG probably considers a system “sound” if they think they can easily manipulate it... And I fear that the supposedly “peaceful” society may have a surprisingly different side to show, should they discover in the future that they have been completely and utterly bamboozled...

- Close to China and other Asian countries, only 3.5 hours from Shanghai and Hong Kong, 4 hours from Beijing with direct flight.

Close? 3.5 to 4 hours flight time is considered “close”? Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia are “close” to China. **Macau** and **Mission Hills** (big casino and the world’s largest golf resort, respectively) is *in* China... So “*Why Yap?*” is indeed a good question... But of course, **a long runway and a deep port may come in handy for quite different purposes...**

- Most tourists love natural and beautiful islands like Yap.

This must refer to what is usually called “eco-tourists,” in which case I agree. However, this is definitely not the type of tourists that ETG and their “famous brand name partners” are aiming for (according to their sales presentation): Gamblers, cruise-line passengers, wealthy celebrities, and the like are looking for places like Bora Bora, Tahiti, Fiji, Hawai’i, Caribbean islands, and such. They are presumably looking for grand vistas, waterfalls, miles of white beaches... all things that **cannot be found** in Yap State. Personally, I suspect that quite a few of these new arrivals, if they come to Yap, will feel cheated...

- Yap wants to develop tourism business.

Absolutely true! But I think the majority of Yapese wants this kind of development to take place **in a sustainable and eco-friendly way**: Promoting what’s unique about Yap is good; To destroy it is probably not that good...

Data About Chinese Outbound Travelers

- 70 million Chinese traveled outbound in 2011, for sightseeing and shopping.

So what? Why is this of interest to the ETG/Yap situation?

- Average spending per Chinese tourist in the USA is more than US\$8,000, while other tourists spend ~ US\$4,000 per person.

So what? Yap is not the USA. Is the author trying to plant the idea of “*imagine the cash flow for Yap if 4,000+ tourists come here and spend US\$4,000 per person per visit!!! That’s about twenty million dollars per month!*”—Yeah, right! Dream on! Get real!

- On Dec 21, 2007, FSM opened its embassy in Beijing to promote trade, tourism, cultural connection with China, and encourage Chinese investments. The FSM became a travel destination to Chinese tourists in 2010. 133 countries and regions are open to Chinese tourists by today.

Again: So what?

- Major tourism destinations such as: USA, Europe, Japan, South Africa, Caribbean countries, South America, Southeast Asian countries, island countries like **Maldives**, Seychelles, Fiji, **Palau** and other Pacific islands are actively targeting Chinese tourists.

Who wrote this nonsense? S/he must be totally ignorant about the fact that **Palau** is being wooed by the **Republic Of China** (ROC, also known as **Taiwan**), **not the People’s Republic of China** (PRC), and both FSM and Yap State governments has officially declared their adherence to **PRC’s “One China” policy**... And what’s going on in the Maldives is rather disturbing...

- Guam and Saipan have tourism offices in China. Saipan opened direct flights to China, chartered airlines flies between Guam and Shanghai.

Again: So what?

- 150,000 visited Maldives (Indian Ocean) in 2011.

Again: So what?

- In 2011, 70,000 visited Hawai’i, > 22,000 to Palau, 20,000 to Fiji, 7,000 to Guam.

Again: So what?

- ~ 10 Chinese visited Yap in 2010. The total number of visitors to Yap in 2011 was ~ 4,400. Huge growth potential!!!

“Growth potential”... For whom? The local Yap economy? To me it looks as if the “potential” referred to is that of Chinese political and military influence!

What Yap May Want? Develop Sustainable Tourism Business

- More international standard travel service facilities.
- More and improved infrastructure (road, airport, port, power, water).
- More convenient and cheaper flight connections to other parts of the world.
- Well-trained human resources for hospitality business.
- Better healthcare, education, transportation, entertainment facilities.
- Partners to promote Yap and attract tourists.
- More new jobs creation and higher income to improve the standard of living for Yapese people.
- Protection of environment and ecosystems.

All of the above points just restate the obvious. **Of course** Yap wants these goodies. **Every nation in the world** want these goodies. But these bullets also keep propagating a not-so-subtle lie: **“all this will be Yap’s, for free!”**... **NOT!**

- Keep and promote local culture, customs, traditions, and life styles.

Yes, all of the above, yes, good! On a reasonable level, considering the size of the islands and of their populations as well as their very sensitive ecosystems, both dry and wet! **And realizing that there is “no free lunch”!** If someone believes that all of the above will, or can be realized **for nothing, free of charge**, those someones are sadly misinformed and ditto mistaken! The “price tag” for this ETG adventure can potentially be astronomical... **Think!**

ETG can provide all mentioned above.

No, they cannot, and **will not**. See comments above! See comments below. At every turn, this “Paradise Project” flyer nothing but a hastily assembled collection of non-committal sweet-talking BS, buzzwords and catchphrases which mean **nothing** (but it seems to me as if the author of this drivel thinks s/he is mastering an impressive vocabulary... In fact it mirrors, if anything, illiteracy!). *Yawn!*

What ETG Can Do For Yap?

- Upgrade Yap into a world class travel destination, free trade zone, regional convention center, and air transportation hub, by:

Free trade zone??? This is the first time this is mentioned... And Yap, an **air transportation hub???** Maybe the word “hub” and what it means in the air travel industry context is unknown to the author of this flyer???

- 1) Investing in sufficient high quality travel and convention service facilities in Yap.

“Sufficient high quality”—what does that mean? What is “sufficient” for Yap? And does someone seriously believe that any major convention will ever take place on Yap? Really? (*Anyone wanna make a bet?*)

- 2) Infrastructure improvement, improving or building sophisticated hospital, school, providing greener transportation, entertainment facilities.

“Sophisticated hospital,” how is that different from a regular hospital? **“Greener transportation,”** what does that mean? Electric buses? Wind powered cars? Rollerblades? And many of us are still in the dark concerning these “entertainment facilities”—What are these, really? Karaoke parlors (like the now defunct Marine Sports “hotel”)? Another euphemism for casinos? Brothels? How about disseminating some **real information**, instead of regurgitating the same old tired and meaningless buzzwords, over and over?

- 3) Opening direct flights from Chinese major cities like Shanghai, Beijing, Chengdu, Hong Kong to Yap, enable more convenient connection from other major hubs to Yap.

“Chinese major cities”? Maybe the author meant to say “major Chinese cities”... Who knows? And what does *“enable more convenient connection from other major hubs”* mean? Direct flights NYC–YAP? Or AMS–YAP? Or FRA–YAP? Now **that** would be a Neat Trick!

- 4) Providing professional training to local people, to be better prepared for hospitality job opportunities.

How long would it take to learn Mandarin fluent enough to get one of these “hospitality jobs” (and what exactly would those opportunities

be)? Front desk receptionist? With a spit-can next to the phone? Or is it part of the ETG plan to “re-educate” the Yapese to give up their betel nuts? Get real!

- Use environmentally friendly products and technologies in the project, to protect ecosystems and the environment.

More buzz, with zero information content: be specific! What “environmentally friendly” products? What “environmentally friendly” technologies? (And “*ecosystems AND the environment*” is a tautology: the terms are synonymous!)

- Fully respect local opinions, actively protect and promote Yapese culture, customs, and traditions.

This one I really like: “Fully respect local opinions!” So, if the majority of Yapese say NO to this “Paradise Project” and all its potentially destructive repercussions, ETG will pack up their stuff and go back home? Promise? The mere act of proposing a project of this magnitude to Yap State (with next to zero information being given to the People of Yap (outside a circle of very few “insiders”)) is **an act of disrespect** to the People of Yap State, and developments—on the scale proposed by ETG—have a strong potential to utterly destroy Yapese culture, customs, and traditions!

- Bring in more high-end tourists to contribute to the local economy of Yap and FSM.

Again, this oft-repeated myth of “high-end” tourists bringing wealth to the Yapese... Not unlike **Ronnie Reagan’s** “trickle down” economy, this is *not* how things usually turn out in real life. **My prediction:** most “high-end” Chinese tourists will come to the “famous brand name” hotels on **packaged tours, paid for in China**. Very little will be spent outside the hotels they are booked in. Due to high overhead, all hotels will most of the time post heavy losses (*according to the books, that is*), so no taxes will be paid. Very few job opportunities will open for Yapese applicants, except maybe as toilet cleaners or grass cutters. Casinos—if allowed, *heaven forbid!*—are notoriously difficult to audit, or to oversee the actual cash flow: faked “winnings” could easily be used to “launder” dirty Chinese money; “Skimming” is next to impossible to detect; Yapese in “controller positions” may be severely tempted by generous bribe offerings; The list goes on and on...

- Help the Yapese people to significantly and sustainably improve their living standard, by:

- 1) Providing substantial and stable lease income from sleeping or low-output land assets for the long term.

Some of the most desired locations has had villages on them, for centuries. Are these lands, **clan estates**—the source and basis for social status, rank, and authority—to be considered “sleeping or low-output assets”?

- 2) Creating many new job opportunities with priority given to local people of Yap, increase their income.

Another tired and oft-repeated catchphrase. [See above.](#)

- 3) Supporting local people to capture new business opportunities emerging from the Yap Paradise project.

And again, a tired and oft-repeated catchphrase. [See above.](#)

- 4) Boosting existing local businesses, e.g. fishery, aquaculture, agriculture, tourism, handicrafts, restaurants, retails, cultural events.

The author of this flyer must think that Yapese are really dense, to not see through these endless repetitions of the same BS... [See above.](#)

- 5) Lots of tax revenue to FSM and Yap State can be used to further benefit all Yapese people.

Prediction: Preciously Little “tax revenue” will flow into the Yap State financial coffers (“*We lose money, can’t pay taxes on that*”). Maybe if Yap jacks up the real estate taxes, some cash may be captured! [See above.](#)

- 6) Building sophisticated hospital. providing much better and convenient medical services for both local people and tourists, reducing the odds of the epidemic diseases like Dengue Fever.

“Sophisticated,” and “much better”... Is the Yap Hospital really that bad?

- 7) Sponsoring education, sports and entertainment facilities to enrich the lives of the Yapese people.

With Yap’s culture and sacred sites destroyed, how is that “enrichment”?

- 8) Providing free public transportation on the island for every resident. We will use environmentally friendly technologies.

More appeals to the “*it’s free, so it’s good!*” mindset, and more tech BS!

Yap Paradise Islands Project

ETG’s Investment Plan (2012-2015)

- **Travel service facilities:** Hotels and resorts (max 4,000 rooms); Exhibition and Convention Centers; Entertainment Center; Ocean Park; Golf courses; Marinas and yacht clubs; Duty-free shopping area; Food and beverages area; Museum.

This is a reiteration of the items listed in “Yap State Counter-Proposal #1” (“CP#1”), and (if written by ETG) indicates that ETG has made a “counter-counter-proposal to “Yap State” (that is, to a select few individuals around the governor). There are several questions to be raised about this list: What exactly is an “*Entertainment Center*” (sounds like a euphemism for “*casino*” to me)?

And what exactly is an “**Ocean Park**”? What kind of museum does the ETG want to build on Yap? **Notice that “casinos” are not mentioned in the list...**

- **Infrastructure:** Airport terminal; Roads; Sewage and waste treatment; Water supply (rainwater collection and reservoirs); Power supply system (energy center).

Another repeat from **CP#1**, with the added items of “**reservoirs**” (is that the rumored dam proposal, requiring more relocations?) and “**energy center**”... What exactly is an “energy center,” and why not calling it a “power station”? Also, the needed **major** extension of the airport is downplayed, for some reason, only mentioning “Airport terminal,” **nothing** about the fact that it will have to be similar in size to that of Guam (in order to accommodate the comings and goings of some **daily** 4,000+ tourists (at 75% occupancy, 1.6 tourists per room)), and saying nothing about the **substantial** extension of the YAP runway (and all associated emergency facilities, baggage handling, immigration staffing, etc etc) that will be needed.

- **Public service facilities:** Hospital; Sports center; School; Entertainment facility; Public transportation.

More **CP#1** regurgitations. What exactly is this “**Entertainment facility**”? Yet another fancy politically correct word for “casino”?

- **Tourism real estate:** Apartments; Garden villas.

This would require **new FSM and Yap laws** to be enacted, as non-FSM citizens cannot currently get title to Yap real estate (such as condominiums and free-standing house&lot). How do they intend to sell a house to some rich **non-FSM citizen**, with the provision that, “*after x years, property title/ownership will return to whoever inherited the land from its original owner*”???

Why Does ETG Care About Yap Culture and Environment?

- Tourism business is a long-term investment!

This is probably true, but look at **Saipan**... How “long term” was that? Also, as ETG’s business is to build, then lease (or sell?) the hotels to some “famous international brands,” how is that “long term” for ETG?

- Clean environment and healthy ecosystems are the most important selling points of Yap travel.

Someone must’ve planted a joke here... Chinese tourists, primarily interested in “clean environment” and “healthy ecosystems”? Like, upscale wealthy Chinese eco-tourists? This is the first I see about ETG building for “eco-tourists”!

- Environmental destruction = SUICIDE of the investment!

See previous comment. Upscale wealthy tourists, gamblers, golfers, and cruise line consumers usually have little to no interest in whether the “environment” is destroyed or not. Sand transported from elsewhere to create a nice-looking (but fake) “beach” somewhere, does not show the fact that it **killed reefs in two places**. Golf courses look nice on the surface, but underneath they contribute to environmental destruction via **toxic runoff** (which—*make no mistake!*—**will** reach, first the water table, and eventually, the reefs).

- The local culture is the unique Yap identity. ETG can’t afford to lose the local culture after investment.

Says who? Author, please! To believe that ETG has any interest whatsoever in Yapese culture, other than commercial exploitation, is laughable. **Lhasa**, in **Tibet**, has (had?) a unique culture (see www.tinyurl.com/yapetsina (“*Lhasa Hotel Boom: The Back Story*”). Here’s a quote from the article: “*Chinese tourism enterprises, with patronage at the highest political level, converted natural and social capital into monetary capital, making huge profits. These profits were captured by enterprises enclosing, surrounding and now suffocating the nature reserve, driving away any remaining pandas, and now driving out the Tibetans too, all in the name of conservation. The key to this story is Deng Hong, who first made his fortune in remote Jiuzhaigou, in partnership with InterContinental hotel chain; and in 2011 is now using his wealth and inner connections with the Communist Party—he is now a member of the National People’s Congress*” —to build the biggest hotel Lhasa has ever seen, the Lhasa InterContinental, to open end of 2012.” Before it is too late, Yap: **Wake up!**

- ETG is in the same boat as Yap regarding environmental protection and local culture conservation.

You, whoever wrote this: tell that to the [Nimpal Channel Marine Conservation](#) group! You are either **incredibly ignorant** (if Yapese) or a **liar** (if not).

- ETG’s operational partners will all be Famous International Brands with high environmental standards.

Another FIB? Again, one has to suspect abysmal ignorance of the facts, here...

Someone has swallowed the ETG bait, hook, line, and sinkers...Where to begin? You, who wrote this **disinformational crap**, need to read this docu-

¹ The **National People’s Congress** (NPC) of the PRC is the highest organ of Chinese state power. The NPC and its Standing Committee are empowered with the rights of legislation, decision, supervision, election and removal.

ment (where you may discover the true colors behind these “famous brands”): <http://www.consumersinternational.org/media/105610/realdealhotelsfinalrw120808.pdf>, but you would probably dismiss it as hotel-hating propaganda...

- ETG and Yapese will form a happy and sustainable win/win partnership.

Happy? Someone has been puffin’ on some of “Gilman’s Gold”... If this ETG “paradise project” is allowed to go on, **a lot more** will go up in smoke...

Environmental Protection Actions

ETG will:

- Engage internationally famous design and planning firms to design this project with a “Green Concept,” in harmony with the local environment.

The very idea that “internationally famous design and planning firms” would know diddley-squat about the unique Yap conditions is, again, laughable. The **fact** is that, on an island as small and ecologically sensitive as Yap, it is simply **not possible** to build fake beaches and golf courses, and host **several thousand daily tourists** “in harmony with the local environment.” **Can’t be done.**

- Engage leading consulting firms to conduct a feasibility study, and to do an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA); Understand the capacity of the environment, and then refine the investment plan.

If Yap State Government allows ETG to conduct a (much needed!) feasibility study, they will have virtually **admitted** that they do not know what they are doing, what they are letting the Yapese people into: This would be equivalent to the proverbial **fox guarding the chicken coop!** The assessment and feasibility studies, to carry **any credibility at all, must** be conducted by agencies with ties to neither ETG nor China. **Think about it!**

- Use various advanced Green technologies to avoid negative environmental impact from the Yap Paradise Project.

*“various advanced Green technologies to avoid negative environmental impact”... Zero-information technobabble... “Various advanced techniques”... what does this mean? As previously stated: For an island the size of ~100 km², with a population of ~9,000 people, to believe that it is possible to “avoid negative environmental impact” when building ten huge hotels, with fake sand beaches, adorn the landscape with golf courses, and dump ~4,000 “wealthy tourists” into that very environment—**every day!**—is to believe in the tooth-fairy! The **noise pollution alone** (from 10-15 landings/takeoffs **per day**, and from four thousand foreigners trampling every which where) may have a **seri-***

ously negative environmental impact! It is just plain crazy! Author of this “flyer”: How can you write this **nonsense**, and feel no shame? I hope you’re well paid!

- Promote strong environmental awareness to tourists and new residents, before they land in Yap.

One can promote environmental awareness until one’s face turns blue: foreign wealthy and famous gamblers and shoppers won’t give a hoot! However, and **much more important**: There is a *very ominous phrase* lurking here, look at it again, up close: **“new residents”!** What *new residents*? Is there a **hidden plan** here? **What Is Going On?**

Work With Yapese to Protect Local Culture

- Set up programs to protect identified cultural symbols.

Notice that this is non-committing... Not prefixed by **“ETG Will”!** Now, if there is a cemetery, or other sacred village grounds, where ETG wants to build a hotel, will they take their bulldozers elsewhere? And all Chiefs on Yap should consider the fact that **the chief reason they are Chiefs, is because they were born to certain Yapese estates**: “Moving a village” may be logistically possible, but *does the estate move with it?*

The answer, of course, is **NOT!** So, for all relocated Chiefs, they can expect to add the prefix **“ex-”** to their time-honored title, status and rank. Because I do not think ETG (or their “famous brand operator”) will allow them to be the Chief of the hotel that now stands on their (leased) estate! **Think about it.** The Chiefs **are** indeed “cultural symbols,” of an ancient and proud and mighty empire, and among the most prominent such as well!

- Set up a fund to be used for protection and promotion of the Yapese culture.

Same as above. One might add, how big will this fund be, and who’s going to manage this fund?

Basic Principles

- Has to be Win/Win: sustainable benefits for BOTH Yapese and ETG.

This is a cute example of a clueless **“belief system”** (BS, for short ;). **Has** to be? Guaranteed? By whom? By ETG? By their “famous brand operators”? And what exactly does **“sustainable benefits”** really mean?

- Share happiness and mutual respect between Yapese and tourists. Be nice to each other.

Oh *puleeze!* Come on! How nauseatingly thick can you smack the BS on???

Rodney King, and his famous line “*Why Can’t We All Just Get Along?*” Comes to mind... **Prediction** (if ETG manages to buy their way through): When the Yapese discovers to which degree they have been bamboozled, there will be social problems and “anti-tourism sentiments” growing, and fast!

Principles of Land Lease and Relocation

- ETG will not and cannot force local people to relocate if they don’t want to.

True, but define “force”! If a Chief tells a villager to comply, can s/he refuse? “**ETG will not and cannot**”... Can the Yapese get this promise documented in a **legally binding** document?

- Avoid land that would require relocation.

Good! So no land already populated by **villages, cemeteries, stone paths** (very prominent cultural symbols indeed!) or otherwise **culturally sacred or otherwise significant sites** will be leased? Great!!! Can the Yapese get **this too in legally binding writing?**

- Avoid land currently used for farming.

Even better! Nothing will be built on land already in use! But... Wait a minute now... just *where* are these ten (phase one) hotels going to be built? In the **jungle**, somewhere? In the **mangrove swamps** and thickets—*no, that won’t do, as the mangroves are hugely important for the Yap ecologies*—so where, pray tell, will ETG lease and build???

- IF someone is open to relocate, ETG will provide new accommodation for free.

“**New accommodations**”... What are these? Apartment projects, model Shanghai laborer quarters, on sub-rank land, somewhere? Or will they ship in a bunch of these **comfortable container homes**? Or is this flyer telling me (with “a straight face”) that **ETG knows how to plan and build a bona fide Yapese village**, from scratch? On what rank land? **Question: Will the Yapese relocatees just bend over and accept their new dwellings?** And if not, what will or might happen? Plan B? **What is Plan B?**

Casino?

First of all: there was NOTHING written about any casino(s) in the CP#1... So what is this section about? The author of this flyer is apparently privy to information not yet made public: that ETG has returned a counter-counter-proposal, which has been amended with something like “*No Casino, No Deal*”—Wouldn’t surprise me. Otherwise—if this is just more made-up BS—this section can be completely ignored.

- A casino is a business. People go to casinos to pursue excitement and try their luck by taking some risk.

Oh this fairy-tale ignorance... Hear this: People go to casinos because **a)** they are wealthy enough to afford losses, but still need to show off this fact; or **b)** they are convinced that their hare-brained “system” will break the bank (*they are dead wrong*); or **c)** they are just plain f*ing **stupid**: The reason casinos is such “good business” is that **People Lose Their Hard Earned Money** there. BIG money. **Easy-to-hide-from-the-tax-man** money. Impossible-to-control money. Does anyone really think that it is sheer coincidence, that **the Mob** (the “Mafia,” gangsters) built **Lost Wages** (excuse me, **Las Vegas**) and **Atlantic City**? And that they financed these robbery-palaces because they were concerned with *people not pursuing enough excitement* in their lives? **Casinos are institutionalized robberies!** The casino **always** wins! With the token “winner” now and then, to boost the frenzy further!

- Casinos can generate very large tax revenues for governments, which can be used for many other important and meaningful causes.

To use a Facebook acronym: LOL! “Very large,” yes? But... If there is no **(declared!)** profit, will there be any taxes paid? How will Yap State Revenue Collectors audit well-cooked Chinese book-keeping? How will Yap State learn how much money is REALLY flowing through prospective casinos, hotels, “entertainment centers,” and other foreign operations? **Think!**

- We believe Yap has the wisdom to avoid all those drawbacks of casino, make it a positive business for Yap, through well-thought legislation and strict management.

Yet again, who T F are “**We**” in this statement? ETG? A misinformed and delusional Yapese? Yet again, the hint of “**new ETG-favorable legislation**” is floating to the surface... And “Well-thought” no less! **Current Yap State Law Does Not Allow Casinos**. For many good reasons, too! And how in heaven’s name is Yap State going to enforce “**strict management**”? To say

that casinos would be “a positive business” is IMO the worst oxymoron ever minted! **There is nothing positive about casinos!** How many Yapese (*other than the two Anafel sons, currently studying on scholarships in China*) know Mandarin on a level where they can communicate with Chinese hotel managers?

- USA (Las Vegas), Monte Carlo, Singapore, South Korea, Macau, Saipan and Pohnpei approved casinos.

And what has this to do with the price of sand in Sahara??? Here, I will only quote one (of **many!**) voices **against** the society-destroying casino enterprise that has been suggested for **Pohnpei** (*Source: [Kaselehlie Press](#)*):

“For all the hype about revenues and jobs, one very crucial point – indeed, we daresay this is the crux of the whole matter – has been totally ignored. **Did anyone ever ask us, Pohnpeians, if we want a casino on our island?** For that matter, **has anyone ever asked the people of Lukop Village in Madolenihmw Municipality, who stand to be displaced, if they are willing to give up their homes so that high rollers from who knows where can try their luck at the baccarat and roulette tables?**”

Has anyone even considered the sentiments of **His Majesty, the Hon. Kerpet Hebel, Isipao the Nanmwarki of Madolenihmw**, who has **publicly expressed his opposition** to the casino?

If there is one thing Pohnpei takes pride in, it is in the **preservation of our culture and traditions**. So precious are these to us that we have even enshrined our traditional laws as part of our legal statutes. Part of that tradition is that **no major decisions are ever undertaken without consulting and getting the consensus of the Traditional Leaders and the people of Pohnpei**. [...]

Have we heard anyone in this Administration ever discuss the potential social costs of opening a casino on Pohnpei? Has anyone in this Administration even told us that **Guam, the most advanced island in the Micronesian region, has refused to have anything to do with casinos?**

Has this Administration ever talked of the many studies and articles written about the experiences of Atlantic City or Las Vegas beyond the garish lights? Has anyone in this Administration ever told you that US cities that have allowed the operation of casinos have invariably witnessed **dramatic increases in crimes like murder, rape, robbery and car theft, not counting domestic violence and child abuse and neglect?**”

It is sad indeed to see how corruption seems to saturate Palikir politics (but what can be expected, really, with Chuuk State being what it is (among other things, bailed out by China back in 2007 (a “pre-payment”?) to the tune of US\$3.5 million (*Source: [FSM Government](#)*): *Break every rule in the book, the gummint will pay the bill! Wild West? Wild West Pacific!* Is this sad fact now going to be used as an excuse for Yap State to walk down the same sordid path? People of Yap State, is this **really what you want** for your descendants

to grow up in? A quagmire of overcrowding, corruption, prostitution, gambling, drugs, criminality, violent ethnic disturbances, and social misery?

- If ETG is permitted to open casinos on Yap, ETG will contribute significant amount of revenues and make every single person of Yap benefit: partly into healthcare, education, pension, cultural heritage conservation, public sports and entertainment, and partly in cash distributed to each family.

What I read here is, **“If You vote to allow this project to go ahead, You will be handsomely paid, in all conceivable ways, not least via bulging envelopes distributed to every individual family!”** Entrapment? Is it really OK to ask people to accept bribery in such blatant a fashion? **Who wrote this “flyer”?**

- Local people are not encouraged to gamble in casinos.

“Not encouraged”? Do I hear ETG saying here that, **“Yapese will be allowed to gamble,² but we are not encouraging it!”**? How many Yapese can/wants to adopt the dress code that I’m sure will be enforced? And even if they do, will they **really** be allowed to mingle with the rich and famous foreigner high rollers (who most likely will not approve of betelnut chewing and its associated paraphernalia)? **Hello?**

- ETG would like to discuss with FSM and Yap State on feasibility, approval process, and regulations.

Oh I’m sure ETG would love that! And preambles has already been filed, in Palikir... But, **please**, people of Yap: turn them down! **No Casinos on Yap!**

ETG: A reliable partner to build a better Yap!

Do not fall for this blatant propaganda!
Do you, the Yapese, really need a “better” Yap?
Who are better partners than the Yapese themselves?
Who are “more reliable” than your own neighbors?
What is wrong with keeping Yap the way it is: Unique?
What Yap needs most is a Positive Future Vision,
Not one where it is destined to become an “Ethnic Zoo”!

²“Gamble,” in this context, is a euphemism for “getting robbed”...