

The KASELEHLIE PRESS

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Pohnpei championship spellers to compete in regional spelling bee in Guam



Lonie Nicholas

GEAR UP Program

February 29, 2012

Pohnpei, FSM—For the first time in history, students in Pohnpei had a chance to participate in the National Scripps Spelling Bee competition held on February 6, 2012. The program on Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP), together with the Rotary Club of Pohnpei and Pohnpei State Department of Education organized the first Scripps National Spelling Bee in six Pohnpeian elementary schools: Awak, Kolonia, Nett, Ohmine, Saladak, and Sekere.

The Scripps National Spelling Bee is a highly competitive annual spelling competition in the United States. Participants from other countries are also eligible. The National Spelling Bee has been held since 1925. It is open to students who have not yet completed the eighth grade, reached their 15th birthday, and who have never won a previous National Spelling Bee.

In addition to encouraging children to perfect the art of spelling, the Spelling Bee helps to enlarge the vocabularies of participants and to widen their knowledge of the English language. The prizes are rewarding too. The winner of the regional competition to be held in Guam on March 3, 2012, will earn a trip to Washington D.C. for the final competition and will receive a cash award of \$850. The champion of the final competition will be awarded with \$30,000 cash prize and other gifts.

See "Bee" on page 6



Mitchell Marino

Evidently excellent equitable FSM education NDOE goal States so far, slow on the uptake of decades old accreditation law

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

February 28, 2012

Pohnpei, FSM—According to an FSM presenter at a training session on the FSM School Accreditation System that began this morning in Pohnpei, none of the FSM State Departments of Education have met reporting requirements under the law.

The presenter said that Yap is the only State that submitted its reports under the nationally mandated accreditation program but that those reports were not accompanied by concrete supporting data and have been sent back.

To be fair, while the law (Title 40 of the FSM Code) that requires all FSM schools to be accredited is even older than the country it's never been done and the learning curve to implement that plan is at least as steep as the walls of Sokehs Rock. The "promulgation" (putting into effect) of accreditation standards included in that law didn't get underway until the middle of May 2011.

Cassiano Shoniber who was then the Secretary for the National Department of Education wrote a letter to President Mori on May 16, 2011 asking for permission to begin the process of promulgating the accreditation portion of Title 40 of the FSM Code. President Mori signed off on the plan the next day and the process began.

On June 1, 2011, the regulations for the process of accreditation of FSM schools




were circulated to the Chairs of the FSM Congress Committees, the Legislative Counsel, and the Speaker of the Congress. The public was invited to comment on the regulations or to request a public hearing. Having received no comments whatsoever, on July 9, the accreditation regulations were adopted. NDOE allowed a few more weeks after that point to allow for further comments and the regulations went into effect as proposed on September 1, 2011.

According to a highly placed source within the National Department of Education (NDOE) who asked that his name be kept out of this report, the United States Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) required that all of the approximately 260 schools in the FSM be accredited by the end of the fiscal year as a partial basis for the release of funding for FSM education. The NDOE source said that OIA's requirement was only that the FSM follow its own law but that it is a monumental task that had never been attempted. He said that OIA agreed to a request by NDOE to undertake the process of accreditation only for FSM High Schools during the first year. He said that there are fewer than 30 High Schools in the FSM.

Somehow communication of the diminished requirements for the December 15, 2011 submission of accreditation reports in each of the States was insufficient and States did not submit accreditation reports even for secondary institutions.

From NDOE training materials, accreditation is "the granting of approval to an

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Committed to “saving lives” and changing minds”

Contributed by the Micronesia Red Cross Society (MRCS)



The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) originated from humanist and visionary, Henry Dunant in 1863 who advocated the idea of providing ‘neutral’ medical services on the battlefield. Since its establishment in 1919, the IFRC has been the world's largest humanitarian network, providing assistance without discriminating on the basis of nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions.

Under its globally recognized emblem: a red cross and a red crescent on a white background, the IFRC has assisted 150 million people around the world. The



Federation achieves its work through the dedication of over 13 million volunteers and 187 National Societies, all of whom are committed to ‘saving lives and changing minds’. With such an extensive network of National Societies, in almost every country in the world, the IFRC carries out relief operations to assist victims of disasters, while simultaneously strengthening the capacities of its member National Societies. The Federation focuses on its development work on four core areas: promoting humanitarian values, disaster response, disaster preparedness and health and community care. Co-operation between National Societies has enabled the IFRC not only to develop capacities, but also to reach individual communities.

As the 181st member of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, The Micronesia Red Cross Society (MRCS) has demonstrated its capacity in providing humanitarian assistance, particularly in disaster management. This has been demonstrated during a cholera outbreak in Pohnpei State in 2000. The MRCS provided medical supplies and mobilized more than 100 volunteers to support its public health education program. The Red Cross also played a key role in responding to the disaster

when tropical storm Chata’an struck Chuuk state in 2002, causing more than 60 landslides on some of the worst affected islands, and leading to at least 47 deaths and 109 injuries. The MRCS participated in the damage and needs assessments, together with government authorities and provided direct assistance to the victims, such as non-food relief supplies. Similar action was also taken by the MRCS when Typhoon Sudal struck Yap state in 2004 which caused widespread destruction in affected areas. As part of the regional disaster preparedness program, the MRCS distributed basic relief items such as blankets, sheets, clothing and water containers for approximately 100 families in need.

As part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement; a global network of 187 national societies, the Micronesia Red Cross aims to provide neutral and impartial humanitarian assistance to the Micronesian people, especially to those most in need. The Micronesia Red Cross Society is headquartered in Pohnpei with Suzie G. Yoma as Executive Director and Mr. Diaz Joseph as the Chairman of the MRCS Board of Directors. To deliver its humanitarian commitment, MRCS has local Chapters in each state of FSM with Mr. Myron Hashiguchi as Chairman, Board of Advisors MRCS-Chuuk Chapter, Mr. Berlin Sigrah as Chairman, Board of Advisors MRCS-Kosrae Chapter and Mr. James Lukan as Chairman, Board of Advisors MRCS-Yap Chapter

Pohnpei Fishing Club holds Annual General Meeting

Pohnpei Fishing Club

Pohnpei, FSM—The Pohnpei Fishing Club held its Annual General Meeting on February 4, 2012. We want to give a special thanks to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission for hosting the AGM and to Ambros/Shimbros for providing refreshments for the meeting, and Pacific Ocean Products for donating a lure which was raffled off.

The Club handed out its annual awards which went to some fine fisherman and ladies.

Angler of the Year 2011 is Glenn Hurry with a 343 lbs. Blue Marlin. Lady Angler of the Year 2011 is Mary Tretnoff with a 302 lbs. Blue Marlin. Junior Angler of the Year 2011 is Troy Mix with 14 lbs Skipjack Tuna.

Awards for each species went to the following anglers.

The biggest Marlin for 2011 was landed by Glenn Hurry with a 343 lbs. Blue Marlin. The biggest Yellow Fin Tuna for 2011 was caught by Frank Panuelo, 66.5 lbs. The biggest Skipjack Tuna for 2011 was hooked by Andy Musrarik, 16.5 lbs. The biggest Wahoo for 2011 was snared by Alex Tretnoff 35.5. The biggest Mahi Mahi 2011 was reeled in by Scott Campbell 22 lbs. The biggest GT prize was shared by Allois Malfitani and Kazuhiro Fujita 25.5 (different fish, same weight) and the biggest Barracuda for 2011 was snagged by Jula Porter, 38 lbs.

The first three Anglers of the year got wooden trophies and cash prizes were also awarded to all winners.

Two new board members were elected, Kumer Panuelo and Andy Musrasrik.

The
Kaselehlie Press

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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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Girl Scouts "Thinking Day"


Girl Scouts of Pohnpei

On February 25, over thirty current and future Girl Scouts and Troop Leaders gathered at the Pohnpei Public Library to celebrate World Thinking Day, a global scouting event that recognizes the birthdays of Lord Baden-Powell and Olave Baden-Powell, the founders of scouting. This year, the theme was aligned with Millennium Development Goal #7: "We can save our planet." In honor of this motif, girls and women (in addition to some wonderful male supporters) met at the library to plant a Friendship Garden, learn about climate change and conservation, and celebrate our island and the earth. Despite some rain showers, spirits were high as participants worked together to paint two beautiful banners, learn about Girl Scouts Pohnpei, get to know each other, and churn the earth before depositing shrubs and flowering plants into carefully arranged rows, roots first. Fenno Brunken, Climate Change Advisor at the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), spoke about climate change and its impacts on the Pacific islands. As part of his presentation, girls participated in an interactive game where they represented our island, the threat of a tropical storm, and the social and natural resources that ensure our safety in the face of such hazards. Together, attendees reviewed a list of twenty conservation Dos and Don'ts ("DO drink water from reusable water bottles...DON'T fish in the


Marine Protected Areas or buy undersized fish."), compiled with assistance from the Conservation Society of Pohnpei, USDA-NRCS, SPC, and the International Organization for Migration. After painting, planting, and sliding about in the mud, the girls, leaders, and supporters grasped hands, with arms crossed right over left, in a friendship circle, signifying the end of the event – but just the beginning of Girl Scouting on Pohnpei.

On Saturday, March 10, from 9am to noon at PCR Hotel Nantelik, Girl Scouts Pohnpei is hosting a Troop Leader training, for all responsible adults who are interested in becoming a Girl Scout Troop Leader or Assistant Troop Leader. In the meantime, Girl Scouts Pohnpei is holding a logo and uniform design contest. All entries, drawn in pen or pencil, should be submitted at the Pohnpei Public Library or the Peace Corps office by March 15 at 5pm. The theme of the logo should be "unity" and the theme of the uniform, which may consist of a t-shirt, local skirt, or both, should be "cultural heritage." There will be prizes for the winners. Please call 320-2080 for more information on these contests or to sign up for the Troop Leader Training. Come to learn what Girl Scouts is all about and how you can become involved, to help enrich the lives of girls and women across Pohnpei.







KAMAGAR!




KINISOU CHAPUR!



KALAHNGAN!



KULO MA LULAP!



Founder Frank Lyon mapping the Trust Territories in 1975...

Mahalo!

LY★N

...for the privilege of "Improving Island Life" since 1961...

...Accreditation

Continued from front page

institution of learning by an official review board after the school has met specific requirements." The end goal of accreditation is to ensure that all schools provide for students, an environment that is conducive to learning.

NDOE says that the accreditation process would help FSM schools to improve the educational services and opportunities they provide for students and to raise the level of student academic performance. The regulations set the legal framework on a compulsory basis for minimum service and performance standards for all schools in the FSM for the benefit of all students so that they all have equal rights to quality education no matter where in the FSM they attend school.

Just how compulsory those requirements are, is a matter of debate.

One of the impediments to the implementation of the accreditation regulations is the legal structure of the FSM that weighs heavily in favor of State sovereignty. For instance, Title 40 of the FSM Code requires that all schools in the FSM meet required minimum standards and undergo a process of accreditation. Indeed language in the FSM regulations requires the closure of any school that cannot rise above a Level 1 evaluation after three straight years of evaluation. Pohnpei State has no such statute.

One participant in the training who said that he hated to play "devil's advocate" did so anyway, and asked how the National Government could force any of the FSM States to close a school without violating States' rights to govern themselves.

We consulted attorneys at both the National and State levels. Both said that the question of whether, in general, State or National statutes prevail was much too broad a question to answer generically for all cases.

One of the attorneys suggested in an off the cuff manner without having seen any of the relative laws, that he supposed that in the case of a nationally mandated school closure due to the school's lack of ability to attain accreditation, a State whose statutes do not provide for, or require such a closure would probably have the right to choose to continue to treat the institution as a school even without national recognition of the errant school's right to continue operating.

Whether or not such a school would continue to receive the benefit of Compact funding would be another matter since the Compact treaty with the United States is a National Government arrangement.

One of the participants at this morning's training suggested that likely the only way

that most States would comply thoroughly and on time would be if funding was tied to the thorough and timely submission of accreditation reports.

"Laws are destined to fail if there are no specific funds assigned to enforce them," our source at NDOE said. "That has been the problem with Title 40 from the beginning," he said. "Even now there is no specific funding for accreditation." He said that so far, to the best of his knowledge none of the State Governments has hired or identified personnel to deal specifically with the issue of accreditation.

He also said that there has always been a bit of a cavalier attitude regarding the filing of reports required by the National government; a sort of "I'll get to it when I can; maybe—someday" type of attitude mainly because there's not much that the National government can do about it.

The presenter at today's training said that NDOE made the mistake of assuming that because State Directors of the Departments of Education unanimously agreed that accreditation standards should be implemented in their own school systems it meant that they would comply. But when it came to time to actually do the work it was left undone, "maybe due to lack of resources."

The FSM's regulations would ultimately evaluate individual FSM school performance from Early Childhood Education through 12th grade based on six standards: Leadership, Curriculum Standards, Teacher Performance, Data Management, School Campus, Classroom and other school facilities, and School Improvement Plans. The evaluation of four criteria under each of those separate standards would be conducted on a four level scale with Level 1 being a rating for the lowest performance and Level 4 a rating for the highest level performance.

Under the FSM accreditation regulations the FSM would issue two types of accreditation certificates for FSM Schools. A "National Special Certificate of Achievement" would be issued to schools that meet or exceed level three and four requirements. That type of certification would be good for three years before peer re-evaluation from a State appointed accreditation committee would be required but would still require an annual submission of a self study report.

Schools that substantially comply with accreditation standards and have a plan to address shortcomings (Level 2) would earn a National Certificate of Accreditation. That type of accreditation certificate would require a peer re-evaluation after one year. A school at that level of accreditation would also be required to submit an annual self study report.

Schools that do not comply with regulations and do not have a plan to remedy shortcomings, and that have four

or more determinations by their State accreditation committees at Level 1 will have earned the accreditation category of "Special Measures." A school in that category of accreditation will be provided with technical assistance to develop a turnaround plan and will be evaluated annually. If, after three years a school has still not achieved at least a National Certificate of Accreditation it will be declared to be non-accredited and the Secretary for NDOE will advise the State Director to close the school and relocate students and staff members. "It will be unlawful for a school to operate if it is not accredited," this morning's presentation materials said.

The presenter at today's training of Pohnpei educators said that the FSM's accreditation is loosely based on the accreditation standards of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), the same group that performs accreditation evaluations of the College of Micronesia.

Only two schools in the FSM are accredited by WASC, Xavier High School in Chuuk and Pohnpei Island Central School (PICS) in Pohnpei. Xavier was awarded accreditation for six years and is due for a renewal visit within the next few months. According to Pohnpei's Acting Director of the Department of Education, Mr. Reynold Albert, PICS was awarded WASC accreditation for only one year, a situation he called, "not good."

WASC accreditation lends prestige to the diplomas issued by the institution but holders of a diploma from a school that is not accredited by WASC are not necessarily limited in their choice of colleges or universities they may attend. Though universities look at high school Grade Point Averages (GPA), and a high GPA from a WASC accredited school says more about the capabilities of a student, a student's scores on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) are ultimately a much larger determinant of whether a post secondary school will accept a student, one professional post secondary educator in the FSM said.

Through self study a motivated student can achieve good marks on the SAT exam regardless of where they went to school, whether those schools provided all of the instructional hours they were required to provide, and regardless of the quality of education received there. However, an average student who studies at a school with a high standard of academic achievement such as one that is accredited and who also has a reasonable GPA has a much better chance of doing well on the SAT.

However, if an SAT examination scheduled for late last year is any indication, it is difficult for an FSM student to take the SAT. The handful of students whose parents had fought tooth and nail for their children to have an opportunity to sit for the exam in Pohnpei showed up at the arranged time only to discover that there was

no proctor. According to emails from angry parents sent to The Kaselehlie Press, the proctor was ultimately found washing his driveway having completely forgotten about the exam. The exam was rescheduled for later in the day.

The vast majority of High School students in the FSM sit for the COMET, the College of Micronesia Entrance Test rather than the SAT. Some FSM school administrators use the success of its students on the COMET as a tool to gauge educational success though the test was never designed for that purpose. In the absence of other standards, outside granting agencies also look at the results of that test. But that test is intended only as a tool for the College of Micronesia to determine at what level a student should be enrolled if at all.

The FSM's regulations for accreditation are designed to ensure that ALL students in the FSM are enrolled in primary and secondary schools that have high standards of academic achievement.

The presenter at this morning's training said that though the December 15 deadline for filing of State accreditation reports has already passed it is important to "pick up the pieces and move on" with the plan. He encouraged the 40 or so participants at the training to work toward getting the accreditation evaluations completed as quickly as possible while also being thorough and accurate.

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Pacific leaders agree on urgent need to address integrity of governments in the region

Joint Press Release
Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
Commonwealth Pacific Governance Facility (Commonwealth Secretariat)

1st March 2012, Brisbane, Australia - There is an urgent need to address integrity and accountability of governments in Pacific island countries

The former Prime Minister and current Minister of Public Enterprises of Papua New Guinea Rt Hon. Sir Mekere Morauta told the Regional Consultative Meeting on Democratic Institutions yesterday: "A good government, clean government, can use political stability to govern in the long-term interests of the country; a bad government can use political stability to destroy the nation."

Participants at the meeting jointly organised by the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) in Brisbane, Australia, from 27-29 February 2012 voiced their strong determination to find and share local solutions to weak governance. The findings of the meeting will shape the future work of the Commonwealth Pacific Governance Facility (CPGF), based in Honiara.

This was the first ever opportunity for Pacific island leaders, members of parliament, senior government officials, representatives of non-government organisations and development partners to discuss the challenges facing democratic institutions in the region.

"Political instability not only affects a government's ability to provide services and development activity for its people, it affects relationships with development partners and donors," Hon. Dr Derek Sikua, former Solomon Islands Prime Minister and now Leader of Opposition told the meeting.

Delegates commended this opportunity to meet together and share experiences and ideas about democracy as it is practiced in Pacific Island states.

Three-term President of Kiribati and current MP, Rt. Hon. Sir Jeremia Tabai noted: "It is almost impossible to talk about political integrity without also talking about conduct and public trust. In our democratic system of government we need the confidence that those in power will use it to advance the public interest."

Sir Jeremia and other distinguished delegates applauded the Commonwealth and CPGF's commitment to supporting and equipping democratic institutions in the Pacific region.

The regional leaders and donor partners expressed appreciation to the Commonwealth, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and CPGF for consulting them prior to the establishment of a regional work programme. They called for further dialogue on the concepts of integrity and accountability in government as seen in the existing political values and principles of the region, and reflected in the Pacific Plan.

The delegates cautioned that political issues were complex and subject to country-specific conditions including historical experience, constitutional and institutional architecture, and unique geographic, economic and cultural characteristics.

Pacific governments must have greater influence over donor assistance in the area of politics and democratic institutions, and agreed that part of CPGF's role should be to foster an effective role for the Opposition in national parliaments to improve accountability and coordination of donor support.

The meeting proposed that CPGF consider facilitating regular future meetings and leadership dialogue on the challenges and successful innovations in democracy and democratic institutions in the Pacific region and that such meetings address the key issues identified during the course of discussions, including: the role of traditional authority in democratic political systems; ways to institutionalise political parties; the promotion of effective



oversight parliamentary institutions; possible reforms to improve electoral systems and constitutions; the importance of freedom of information and the role of a responsible media.

Editor's note: Representatives from the FSM including Pohnpei's Governor John Ehsa and Kahndi Eliesar of the FSM Department of Foreign Affairs also attending this meeting in Brisbane. Advance information received by The Kaselehlie Press said that Pohnpei's Speaker, Peter Lohn (of SOKEHS!!) was to have attended the workshop as well but we could not find his face in the group photo of participants sent by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat nor in any of the other photos sent by PIFS. As the participants were travelling at press time we could not confirm Speaker Lohn's participation.

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DR. ELIUEL K. PRETRICK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP Fall Semester 2012

1. Purpose

The primary purpose of the Dr. Eliuel K. Pretrick Memorial Scholarship is to encourage citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) to pursue a post secondary education and receive a 4-year University Bachelor of Arts or Science (BA or BS) Degree in Physical Education or Sports Administration.

2. Number of Scholarships, Amount, and Limitations on Awards

One (1) scholarship, in the amount of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) will be awarded.

3. Eligibility Requirements

- Must be a citizen of the Federated States of Micronesia.
- Must have completed an Associate's Degree with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.5 (on a 4.0 scale) and is currently enrolled college student.
- Must have been accepted for admission into an accredited four-year institution, majoring in Physical Education or Sport Administration.
- Must enroll as a full-time student.

4. Qualification and Basis of Selection

- Applicants must affirmatively show the need for financial assistance in pursuing higher education.
- At a minimum, an applicant must have actively participated in at least one verifiable community service program within the past 12 months.
- Applicants must submit a formal application (see Scholarship Application Form, attached), with all required documentation and letters of recommendation attached thereto.
- Three (3) letters of recommendation must be submitted as part of the application package, preferably from teachers, counselors, school administrators, or religious leaders. Letters from close relatives will not be considered.

5. Application Details and Deadline

The Dr. Eliuel K. Pretrick Memorial Scholarship Committee must receive applications containing no later than June 1, 2012 to be considered.

6. Please send all information to:

Dr. Eliuel K. Pretrick Memorial Scholarship Committee
PO Box PS319
Paliker, Pohnpei FM 96941

7. For further information, please contact your school counselor, financial aid advisor or Dr. Eliuel K. Pretrick Scholarship Committee.

Penny Weilbacher	Chairperson	pweilbacher@yahoo.com
Jim Tobin	Secretary-Treasurer	fsmnoc@mail.fm
Moses Pretrick	Committee Member	MPretrick@fsmhealth.fm
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Suzie Yoma	Committee Member	mrcs@mail.fm



...Bee

Continued from front page

The enrolled schools in Pohnpei prepared students according to the official Scripps study booklet, which has several hundred words to be learned.

The six participating schools in Pohnpei qualified 10 students for the Pohnpei championship bout. Each had mastered the official Scripps study words at school level competitions:

Marla Samuel was the winner of the Awak Elementary School competition and represented her school at the Pohnpei Championship. Rochelle K. Chunn and Lonie Nicholas represented Kolonia Elementary School. Denzel O.G. Ligohr and Maryfe Quiambao represented Nett

Elementary. Sharon Dekampo represented Ohmine Elementary. Mitchell Marino and Salyanna Santo represented Saladak Elementary School, and Courtney Simina and Jamie Noket represented Sekere Elementary School.

The 10 school champions battled to win the Pohnpei State level competition and were not stumped by difficult words like "prestidigitation" (sleight of hand as might be seen in a "magic" show) or "flamboyant" (elaborately showy).

The students had studied the Scripps study booklet so hard that after many tense rounds of competition the pronouncer of the competition ran out of words from the official Scripps study booklet and had to find more words for the contestants to spell.

Lonie Nicholas, a 7th grader from Kolonia Elementary School, won the state level competition when she properly spelled the word "pharmaceutical" (having to do with the dispensing of prescription drugs) Mitchell Marino, an 8th grader from Saladak Elementary School took second place after he properly spelled the word "rhododendron," (a type of evergreen shrub that bears colorful flowers. They can't be found in Pohnpei.)

The two champions will represent Pohnpei state at the regional Spelling Bee competition to be held in Guam on March 3, 2012.

"I am very excited to represent Pohnpei State in the regional competition," said Spelling Bee champion Lonie Nicholas. "I will be representing not only myself but my family, friends, community, school, and even my State. I can't wait to experience this trip, which is the first air trip for me. I cannot promise that I will win the Spelling Bee in Guam but I can promise that I will do my best to reach the goal – which is to win the competition!"

Second place winner Mitchell Marino said, "I am so happy! I am very proud of myself and that I will be representing Pohnpei State in the regional competition. I hope that this case will set an example and motivate my fellow-students to strive for excellence in Pohnpei."

GEAR UP program would like to congratulate and to wish the champions the best of luck in Guam – to earn the chance to compete in the final competition in Washington, D.C.

GEAR UP would like to express its sincere appreciation to the number of sponsors that will allow the champions to participate in the regional Spelling Bee competition: United Airlines, US Department of Education, and the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Pohnpei

GEAR UP would also like to express its appreciation to the number of supporters and volunteers that made the Scripps Spelling Bee possible in Pohnpei: Rotary Club of Pohnpei; Pohnpei State Department of Education; US Embassy in Pohnpei; Peace Corps; International Organization for Migration; US Department of Agriculture Rural Development; FSM Development Bank; Ace Office Supplies, MicroPC, Palm Terrace, Nihco, and Ray and Dors.

POSITION VACANT



Senior Housekeeper/Cook

The Australian Ambassador is looking for an experienced housekeeper for the official Australian Embassy Residence in Pohnpei FSM. An attractive package of benefits is available to the successful applicant.

The person we are seeking will have the skills and experience to perform the following duties:

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Please send your application comprising a resume with reference contact details to the Australian Embassy Pohnpei:

For further information please contact:

The Australian Embassy Pohnpei
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Email phpi.mail@dfat.gov.au
Postal address
PO Box S, Kolonia, Pohnpei FM 96941

Acting Secretary Pretrick signs Host Agreement between FSM and the IOM

On February 17, Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Samson Pretrick and Mr. Ashley Carl, International Organization for Migration (IOM) Country Officer for the FSM, signed a Host Agreement between the FSM and IOM at the FSM Department of Foreign Affairs, following the FSM's ascension to IOM membership in December of 2011.

In his official statement, Mr Carl remarked that the Host Agreement is an important milestone in the relationship between IOM and the FSM, which will facilitate the appropriate framework for future collaboration and assistance.

Acting Secretary Pretrick remarked that he was looking forward to the ongoing partnership between the FSM and IOM and commented on the importance of the Agreement in light of FSM's new membership status.



The Agreement acknowledges the IOM's assistance already provided to the FSM, particularly in the areas of disaster preparedness and assisted voluntary returns. Moreover, the Agreement defines the nature of the relationship between IOM and the FSM and provides a framework for IOM to expand its range of assistance to include climate change adaptation, counter human-trafficking, immigration and border management, among other activities. IOM's important work in support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) will continue in the areas of disaster mitigation, relief and reconstruction. The Agreement will afford IOM status as an International Intergovernmental Organization in the FSM with the associated privileges that accompany such a status and are consistent with international conventions and the law of the Host country. This new arrangement has strengthened the partnership between IOM and the Government of the FSM, while ensuring that the IOM can provide enhanced support to the communities of Micronesia.

The Host Agreement was signed in the presence of the Director of the Office of Environment and Emergency Management, senior staff from the FSM Department of Foreign Affairs, other Government representatives, as well as, IOM staff.

For more information, please contact the FSM Department of Foreign Affairs at 320-2641 or the IOM Office at 320-8795.

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT 2012-002



Opening Date: February 22, 2012
Closing Date: March 21, 2012

It is the policy of the FSM Development Bank that FSM citizens be given first priority for employment consideration with other Micronesians, U.S. citizens, and other nationals utilized in positions for which no qualified citizens are available.

POSITION & GRADE: Administrative Secretary, Grade 2

LOCATION: FSM Development Bank, Chuuk Branch

SALARY: \$12,750.40 per annum, higher salary may be considered depending upon qualification

GENERAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES (*Illustrative only*): include the following. Other duties may be assigned.

1. Receives and assists office callers and visitors. Tactfully refers callers to persons designated by staff and in a manner instructed by the staff. Personally answers routine questions regarding the Bank's business and services.
2. Requisitions office supplies and services according to procedure and as approved.
3. Arranges meetings and keeps staff informed regarding appointments.
4. Files documents and maintains the office filing system.
5. Receives and sends mail, faxes and other communications and reports as instructed.
6. Prepares correspondence and reports using typewriter or word processor. Ensures that such documents are accurate as to grammar, spelling and format.
7. Handles all the book keeping of the Branch.
8. Reconciles savings accounts under Branch control.
9. Prepares Branch Monthly Accounting Report
10. Prepares loan security documents.
11. Participates in loan collection

SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES: NONE

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIREMENTS:

Associate's degree (A.A/A.S.) or equivalent from two-year college or technical school; two years of secretarial or related experience and/or equivalent combination of education and experience. Proficiency with computer.

FILING INSTRUCTIONS:

All applications, curriculum vitae, and at least three letters of reference shall be completed and submitted to: The FSMDB Corporate Office in Kolonia, Pohnpei with mailing address as follows: FSM Development Bank, P.O. Box M, Kolonia, Pohnpei FM 96941 by mail; by fax to 320-2842 or in person at the FSM Development Bank's Corporate Office in Kolonia, Pohnpei on or before March 21, 2012.

Australian Development Leadership Awards Scholarships

Scholarship opportunities for current and future leaders for Intake 2013

The 2013 intake of Australian Leadership Awards (ALA) Scholarships is now open. The Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) is pleased to invite applications for study at **Masters and PhD** levels in Australia.

The overarching goals of Australia's Development Awards are: to develop capacity and leadership skills so that individuals can contribute to development in their home country and to build people-to-people linkages at the individual, institutional and country levels.

ALA Scholarships are academically prestigious awards, offered to high achievers with the potential to assume leadership roles that can influence social and economic policy reform, development and governance in their home countries and region. The purpose of ALA scholarships is to develop leadership in the Asia Pacific region.

Priority areas for programs of study are:

disability, economic growth, education, health, environment, climate change, food security, gender, governance, human rights, energy, rural development and water & sanitation.

Note: To ensure equity and broad participation, AusAID encourages women, people with disability, ethnic minorities, people living in rural areas and members of socio-economically disadvantaged groups to apply.

Applications for the commencement of the 2013 academic year open on 1 Feb 2012 and will close on 30 April 2012.

Applicants must:

- Be a citizen of the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Marshall Islands or Republic of Palau.
- Have a record of high-level undergraduate or post-graduate academic achievement;
- If required by the university, have an IELTS score of 6.5 or above (with no individual band less than 6) – or the equivalent level of TOEFL - with the results no longer than two years by 25th August 2012.
- Not have held a foreign scholarship in the 24 months prior to application.
- Return to their country of origin for at least two years immediately upon completion of the scholarship.

Please email your request for a copy of the application form through: pypi.mail@dfat.gov.au
Please refer to the ALA Scholarships Handbook on the website below for **online application instructions**.

For detailed information on ALA Scholarships please visit: <http://www.ausaid.gov.au/scholar/ala.cfm>

Local contact: Leah Briones, AusAID Senior Program Manager, Australian Embassy, Kolonia, Pohnpei. FSM Phone (691) 320 5448.

Improved fisheries management needed to ensure socio-economic and food security in Micronesia

By Jeanine Almany and Kevin L. Rhodes

The Micronesia Challenge is a commitment by five governments to conserve the vast marine and terrestrial resources that sustain island peoples and cultures across the Marshall Islands, Federated State of Micronesia, Palau, CNMI and Guam, by 2020. In support of the Challenge, The Nature Conservancy's Asia Pacific Marine Program recently completed a study, funded by the Alex C. Walker Foundation and Sylvia Parker, which looked at the economic factors driving the increasing demand for coastal fisheries resources in Micronesia. According to the study, some of Micronesia's coastal fisheries, such as Guam, are already severely overfished, some, such as Palau and the Marshalls, have been fully exploited and others, like Pohnpei, are on the brink of collapse. These effects are being driven by economic, political and social factors, including unsustainable fishing practices.

The following economic drivers were identified as contributing to coastal fisheries resource declines: 1) the commercialization and export of nearshore marine resources; 2) the decline in traditional management and fishing practices; 3) open access fishing

regimes, and 4) long-term under-pricing of reef and pelagic resources by market owners and exporters.

So what can we do about it?

According to Dr. Kevin Rhodes, lead author of the study, "the most important thing we can do is to reduce the overall volume of fisheries resources being harvested. Simply put, fishers are removing more fish than the reef can produce, in some cases several times more." This is being partly driven by low wholesale fishing prices. One key element to achieving reduced fish volume is better management of spawning stocks, which are currently undermanaged, or in some cases unmanaged. Regionally, fishers are continuously catching fish from spawning aggregations before they reproduce or taking fish at a size before they mature. Together with the ineffectiveness of current management, these three practices are reducing the potential for fish populations to recover and are promoting what Dr. Rhodes refers to as a 'perfect storm' for regional fisheries collapse.

On the economic side, undervaluing the wholesale price of fish is not only driving the near-collapse of fisheries resources by promoting overfishing, it is taking money out of the pockets of fishers, who have to spend more and more time and money to meet fuel and food demands. With modern trends what they are, fishers will find it harder and harder to make a living at what they know best. To help fishers through this difficult period, we need to reduce the demand for marine products and transition a percentage of fishers away from fisheries through alternative livelihoods. If these combined actions are taken, the pressure on fisheries may lessen enough to allow fish populations to eventually rebound, but that possibility gets less and less certain the longer we wait.


Finally, the study identified customary marine tenure systems, in contrast to open access systems, as one sustainable management option for marine resources in Micronesia. Open access systems, such as those found in Guam and Pohnpei, allow fishers unrestricted access to reef areas and are a major driver of overfishing. For Micronesian communities, open access systems reduce the sense of resource ownership and responsibility, and fishers within these systems feel driven to catch fish before the next person, stimulating what is commonly known as the "race to fish." Resource declines were generally most severe in open access areas, while those with low population density and stronger, more intact customary marine tenure systems (such as Yap and Palau) tended to be less overfished.

The Micronesia Challenge (www.micronesiachallenge.org) provides an ideal framework to ensure long-term sustainability of management efforts and fisheries, as it calls for regional action against overfishing, enhanced protection of marine resources and better management practices to reduce threats, like sedimentation and coastal development, to marine habitats. However, these efforts alone will not prevent overfishing unless the political and socio-economic drivers are also addressed. Identifying ways to reduce the harvest and demand for marine products, transitioning fishers away from fisheries (alternative livelihood options), and restoring sustainable harvest techniques are all paramount to overall management and conservation success.

According to Dr. Rhodes, "If we don't take action now, we will soon be facing social, economic and food security issues that will be far costlier, more painful and substantially more difficult to overcome. Although managers and politicians are responsible for making and enforcing the rules, fishers and consumers have the ultimate choice in what they take and what they buy. When the fisheries collapse, we will all have played a role."

The complete report, KL Rhodes, K Warren-Rhodes, P Houk, J Cuetos-Bueno and Q Fong. 2011. An Interdisciplinary Study of Market Forces and Nearshore Fisheries Management in Micronesia. A Report of the Marine Program of the Asia Pacific Conservation Region, The Nature Conservancy. Report No. 6/11. 120 pp. is available for download at <http://www.pacmares.com/Publications.html>





Public Announcement

The Pohnpei Port Authority (PPA) wishes to inform the general public or interested parties that PPA is in the process of soliciting Requests for Proposals (RFP) to provide investment related services to PPA.

Complete proposals must be submitted no later than 4 P.M. local time, Friday, March 23, 2012 to the office of Pohnpei Port Authority.

For more details, please obtain a RFP package at the office of the Pohnpei Port Authority located at the Airport Complex, Dekehtik.

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15th Pohnpei 5K Fun Walk/Run Winners

By *Jim Tobin*

The 15th annual Pohnpei 5k Fun Walk/Run was held the morning of Saturday, February 18th at the Palm Terrace Shopping Centre. Over 150 people of all ages walked and ran the 3.1 mile course starting at Palm Terrace around the PICS High School loop, down Main Street and returning to the finish at Palm Terrace. The overall male and female winners were Cassey Henry, with a time of 20 minutes and 08 seconds, and Laurie Eastup with a time of 22 minutes and 02 seconds. The other division winners were: youth division 12 years and under – Nick NJ Raifmai (34.02) and Lidy Isaac (45.01), junior division 18 years and under division – William Pinkney-Baird (38.00) and Reiliza Saimon (22.43) and master division – Gary Bloom (31.59) and Elena Yamada (36.04).

Also receiving awards were the top 10 finishers: 1st – Cassey Henry (20.08), 2nd – Ira Shiflett (20.43), 3rd – Mickey Lourdine (21.12), 4th – Marlon Etnold (21.31), 5th – Bimore Kubo (21.53), 6th – Laurie Eastup (22.02), 7th – Arlen Ratiyemut (22.39), 8th – Reloliza Saimon (22.43), 9th – Edwin Aldis (25.06) and 10th – McWelton Gomez (21.58).

The major sponsors of the event were Ambros Inc. (Guam) and Shimbros Inc (Pohnpei) who provided shirts to all finishers and volunteers. Other sponsors were Bank of Guam, Palm Terrace Shopping Centre, FSM National Olympic Committee, Moylan's Insurance, Island Food Community of Pohnpei, Drops of Life, Pohnpei State Public Safety and K Press. A special thank you to the Island Food Community of Pohnpei for providing healthy foodstuffs (bananas and coconuts) for the participants to eat and drink after the walk/run. The event was organized by the Rotary Club of Pohnpei as a fundraiser for its scholarship program and various community service projects.

The walk/run was the first of six scheduled races, with the third annual Dr. Eliuel K. Pretrick Memorial Scholarship 5k Run to be held on Saturday, March 17, followed by the 8th annual FSMNOC Women and Sport 5k on April 14, 16 annual COM-FSM 5K on May 5, 16th annual Olympic Day Run on June 16 and an Island Food Community Lets Go Local 5k tentatively scheduled for July 14. All of the walk/runs are open to the general public. Our goal is to improve the fitness of our community. For more information contact the FSM National Olympic Committee office.



EXCAVATORS

- 2000 Hyundai R210 LC-3 46,000 Pounds, 140 HP, 1850 Hrs. \$ 81,000
- 2008 Hyundai R55-3 With Blade & 12 Inch Bucket, 2,745 Hrs. \$ 28,000

WHEEL LOADERS.

- 2009 Hyundai HL 740-7 2.8 Cubic Yard GP Bucket. \$ 88,000
- 2005 New Holland Skid Steer Loader LS 185, 85 HP, GP Bucket. \$ 19,500
- 2009 New Holland B95.B 4WD Backhoe GP Bucket. \$ 59,300

ROLLERS

- 2005 Bomag BW 100AD Ride-One 36 Inch Roller 2.5 Ton, 1650 Hrs. \$ 13,500
- 2008 Bomag BW 120AD Ride-One 42 Inch Roller 2.5 Ton, 950 Hrs. \$ 26,000

USED GENERATORS

- 50 KW, 3 Phase, 120/208 Volt, New Alternator, Martin Machinery Gen. Set. \$ 8,900
- 60 KW, 3 Phase, 120/208 Volt, Cummins Onan Gen. Set. \$ 8,300
- 80 KW, 3 Phase, 120/208 Volt, Onan Gen. Set Weather Proof Encl. \$ 11,300
- 50 KW (New 2011), 3 Phase, 120/208 Volt, Kohler Gen. Set, Sound Proof & Weather Proof Aluminum Encl. \$ 22,300

- **Freightliner Trucks: Dumps, Crane Trucks, Tractors, available in stock.**

- **Hyster Forklifts: 2.5, 3.0, 5.0 and 8 Ton available in stock.**

- **JLG: Boom & Scissor Lifts available in stock.**



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**Fifth President says he is not the one man “savior” of COM
Dr. Daisy plans to help COM team to build on good work already done**



By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

February 24, 2012
Palikir, Pohnpei, FSM—Much has been written and said about the arrival of the fifth president of the College of Micronesia FSM, Dr. Joseph Daisy and if that is so it is likely because he comes at an important time for the College. But Dr. Daisy would be the first to say that if there is some feeling that he has come on some imaginary white horse to ride in and “save” the College then they are much mistaken.

First of all, to say such a thing would be to say that nothing that has previously happened at COM has been valuable and he says that just isn't true. There are many previous activities of the College that can be built upon. Dr. Daisy says that COM staff members are capable people and that he is proud to be the new leader of the team. A winning team is what it seems he is hard at work building at the College. He said it's why he chose to speak on the subject of greatness as a choice during his remarks during his investiture ceremony.

“Certainly there are challenges at the college,” he said. “I tell anyone who asks that there are things I will be able to do and things that I will not be able to do.”

The fact that JEMCO (the Joint Economic Management Committee that oversees the U.S. Compact that consists of three U.S. representatives and two FSM representatives) unilaterally decided to begin significantly reducing funding to the college beginning next fiscal year and passing that funding on to FSM elementary and secondary education is one of those things he said he will not be able to fix.

“No doubt, it is going to have a serious impact on the College. I think it's time for us to realize that level of funding is over,” he said. “So now the question will be, “how is that gap closed?””

The Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) is charged to insure that the college has a consistent source of financial support to be sure that the institution is financially stable. That is a task that can be accomplished even if the college ultimately ends up looking differently than it has previously.

Dr. Daisy said that colleges are really good at adding programs but they are notoriously bad at cutting programs that no longer effectively serve the needs of its students. Dr. Daisy did NOT say that programs or services would be cut but he did say that they will be looking at their own effectiveness for the FSM.

In June of 2011, WASC notified the College that it had been placed on probation. The College of Micronesia's accreditation is still in place while it is on probation but it must make improvements on the four recommendations made by the accreditation committee. WASC representatives will be conducting another report on progress at the college after a site visit scheduled to take place in March.

Because U.S. Department of Education regulations say that colleges with deficiencies or under sanction have two years to make corrections. COM will lose its accreditation if it has not been able to correct the situations pointed out by WASC and to be in full closed?”

Continued on next page



FSM ELDP Graduates:

From Left: Steven George (Kosrae), Jane Chigyal (Pohnpei), Shiro Sighrah (Kosrae), Eleanor Samuel (Chuuk), Stanley Raffilman (Yap), Jayson Robert (Chuuk), Alpino Kerman (Pohnpei), Cindy Saimon (Pohnpei), Juliet Jimmy (Pohnpei), Inson Namper (Chuuk), Carlson Apis (Pohnpei), Ryan Edgar (Pohnpei), Ivan Alafonso (Pohnpei), Ann Noda (Kosrae), Bryan Dabugsiy (Yap).



Apply Now!

The Graduate School USA's Pacific Islands Training Initiative is now accepting applications to the 2013 class of the Executive Leadership Development Program. The ELDP Class of 2013 will meet four times, for one week each, starting in Guam (July 2012), followed by Saipan (November 2012), Pohnpei (February 2013) and Honolulu (May 2013), to develop skills in leadership, management, government finance, procurement, and auditing.

Applications are due prior to April 15, 2012.

To find out more about the program, review our list of frequently asked questions, or to learn how to apply to the ELDP, visit us online at <http://eldp.pitiviti.org>.



Conservation Corner

By William Kostka

The local word for prohibition (taboo) is inepwi or inapwih. Literally the word means to ban. In the old days, during isol or the season of scarcity, the high chiefs sometimes had to impose inepwi on kava, yams, pigs and certain species of fish, most especially during their aggregation and spawning periods. When these items were put under a ban or inepwi by the chiefs, no one was allowed to use them to make a feast, and people were expected to eat and/or use these items sparingly.

A good example is the inepwi on kiaok (a type of rabbit fish), which was imposed during the months of February and often times in March when they were known to be scarce. It is important to note that inepwi was never imposed on local produce like breadfruit because they were usually abundant and did not require attentive cultivation like other local produce.

To put prohibition or inepwi on certain local produce and species in the old days was absolutely necessary because Pohnpeians, like most of the Pacific island people, did not have access to and/or the luxury of receiving imported goods from abroad. If certain prohibitions were not put in place in those days, there was a real risk that those items could become extinct leading to widespread hunger.

Unlike in Palau and the Marshall Islands where the practice of bul and mo (same concept as inepwi) are still commonly practiced by their traditional leaders, Pohnpei's traditional leaders/high chiefs seem to have resigned much of this authority/responsibility, which once was a central role of a leader, to government agencies. Today, inepwi or prohibition is mostly carried out by the government. These prohibitions include the establishment of marine protected areas, and bans on catches of certain fish species (i.e. kemeik – pump head parrotfish, wehi – turtle, etc...) during periods when fish are aggregating and spawning.

It would serve Pohnpei well to have the traditional leaders bring back and prioritize this role, because certain, and in fact a large proportion of our local produce and fish species, are either already extinct or highly threatened. I believe that the traditional leaders have more influence in their communities than government officials and policies, and that their actions would be more effective even if they are not deemed "official" or "legal".



The Secretariat is seeking to appoint a suitably qualified and experienced person to work as LEGAL DRAFTING OFFICER

The officer will be responsible to the Director, Political, Governance and Security Programme through the International Legal Adviser for:

- Nasonini Declaration legislation;
- Honiara Declaration legislation;
- Building sustainable legislative drafting capacity;
- Development of other Model laws prioritised by the FRSC and the PG&S programme; and
- Undertaking legislative drafting work to assist in the implementation of the Pacific Plan.

Applicants should have a university degree in law with qualifications in legal drafting and with extensive relevant work experience as a legal drafter in a Forum Island country.

Sound knowledge of legal issues relevant to the regional role of the Forum Secretariat would be essential.

The appointment will carry a competitive remuneration and benefits package including medical and life insurance. The salary will be in the range of SDR26,646 to SDR39,970 per annum. At the 1 February 2012 exchange rate this salary range was equivalent to FJD73,183 to FJD109,778.

For non-Fijian nationals, this salary may be tax-free. Interested applicants are encouraged to obtain an information package containing the job description and remuneration details, which are available at www.forumsec.org.

To be eligible for this position, the applicant must be a national of a Forum member country.*

Applications should be addressed to the Secretary General, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Private Mail Bag, Suva and can be sent electronically to jobs@forumsec.org.fj. Applications should be received by close of business on Friday 16 March, 2012.

The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat is an Equal Opportunity Employer and encourages both men and women to apply.

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

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Do you want to help the FSM be prepared for climate change and future natural disasters by being part of a dynamic, international humanitarian organization?

Position Title: Intern
Position Reference: PNI - 003
Duration: 3 – 6 months
Location: Kolonia, FSM
Deadline: March 20, 2012



IOM is an inter-governmental organization supporting the government and Micronesian community in a variety of areas, including disaster preparedness, climate change, and combating human trafficking. IOM is offering an exciting opportunity for a hard-working, energetic and motivated individual, who may have recently graduated from tertiary education, to gain experience with this reputable international organization.

Internships with IOM provide a range of experiences, including:

- Traveling to remote outer islands to conduct assessments
- Providing public education on disaster preparedness, climate change and resilience
- Liaison with local non-governmental organizations and faith-based groups
- Working alongside local leaders and relevant government authorities
- Conducting country research for contingency planning
- Gaining knowledge and skills in administrative procedures of a large organization
- Working as part of a harmonious multi-cultural team

Qualifications:

1. Bachelor or Associate degree (or equivalent)
2. Strong interpersonal skills and excellent English.
3. Fluency a native language of the FSM is preferred.
4. Excellent PC skills
5. Highly motivated to learn
6. Ability to handle multiple priorities

Remuneration: Internships are unremunerated positions; however interns are provided a generous monthly subsistence allowance to assist in covering transport and other costs associated with their assignment.

To Apply: Interested persons must post, hand-deliver or email the following documents to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) no later than March 20, 2012.

Mandatory Application Documents:

1. One page Statement of Interest
2. Curriculum Vitae or Resume
3. Contact Information of at least 3 referees
4. Copies of academic transcript/s – Do Not Send Originals

Email to: HRmicronesia@iom.int

Mail to:

International Organization for Migration
 PO Box K2644
 Pohnpei, FM 96941

Hand-delivery at:

International Organization for Migration
 Suite 2G Pohn Umpomp Building
 Pohn Umpomp Place, Nett
 (Next to US Embassy)

Due to the high volume of applications received by IOM, only short-listed candidates will be contacted directly and applications may be processed on a rolling basis

K Press Perspective

One ounce of doing outweighs 24 metric tons (26,400 pounds) of talk

Poor, poor FSM national government employees!

Although a qualitative interpretation of that statement does sometimes apply it's not the way I mean it for now. I mean that statement as a real and heartfelt expression of sympathy for those who, every day, must work within the confines of the bureaucracy of the FSM national government.

How must it feel to have made a good faith deal on behalf of one's employer; one that will actually save the employer money for a product the employer wants, only to find that either the employer's rules have changed or that a colleague in another department has a different interpretation of the rules; a colleague who can put the kibosh on your whole good faith deal?

How must it feel to be required to deliver embarrassing news to a vendor; news so embarrassing that even a banana would blush?

"I know that you were expecting a payment today but... (Insert reason for failed or substantially altered deal here)"

"Yes, I know that I personally promised you that 'lambda' would happen by three days ago but (insert name, or new, or previously unknown FSM policy number here) requires that a 'sigma' event must occur before 'lambda' can happen. Unfortunately a certified 'sigma' event occurs only when the moon is directly aligned between the FSM and the 'planet' Pluto. The policy is specific about that and I'm sorry that I didn't know. It's been explained to me that the wording of the policy is explicit and it must be the 'PLANET' Pluto. The fact that scientists no longer consider Pluto to be a 'planet' creates a bit of a problem. I can't tell you when the earth's moon will be in a direct line between the FSM and the 'planet' Pluto because the 'planet' Pluto no longer officially exists. Scientists are not willing to say whether they will ever reconsider their consideration. If they do reconsider their consideration and end up reclassifying Pluto as a planet, and if the earth's moon and not, for example, one of the several moons of Jupiter, (which, by the way, scientists do still consider to be a planet) does happen to stand in a direct line between what will then be the newly reconsidered 'planet' Pluto and the earth, a "sigma" event will occur and THEN I can submit your invoice to DOBS for assurance procedures. After that I can submit your 'lambda' for final processing."

"Yes, I just found out four and a half minutes ago and I'm very sorry."

"No, I'm sorry; I can't tell you how long it will take DOBS to complete their assurance procedures. I think that they are having a staffing problem at the moment."

"Yes, I know, and I'm really sorry that you already spent money based on my personal

promise of "Lambda" but (insert name, or new, or previously unknown FSM policy number here) says that we just can't do it and I didn't know that until DOL told me."

"No...Yes, and I'm really sorry! I know you can't spend my word to pay your bills."

I do feel truly sorry for the poor, poor employees of the national government. I'm serious about that.

As best I can determine, most of them do work to make the best possible deals with local vendors (businesses) and they make commitments in good faith only to find that the odds are actually stacked against local FSM vendors. It really must be embarrassing for them.

Here's something that I discovered this week. The FSM doesn't allow pre-payments to local vendors and will go so far as to reject any offered discounts based on pre-payment in order to enforce that policy.

Though it is far easier for the FSM to pursue recourse from a local vendor to effectuate the delivery of products or services for which the FSM prepaid (which they apparently never do and so I suppose that matter is a non-issue) than it is to pursue an off island vendor, FSM allows pre-payment only for off island vendors.

Witness the current story in the news about a Guam based medical supply business from the Philippines that is accused of accepting an advanced payment of several thousand dollars from the Chuuk State Department of Health and that never delivered the merchandise.

I have to assume that the reason behind the FSM policy is that off island vendors have suspicions that they will never be paid, or that they will be paid so long after the vendor delivers the requested services or products to the FSM that the money spent to deliver those services or products will no longer matter. FSM CAN'T get those services or products unless they pre-pay off island businesses and so they allow for it.

At the same time, it can take weeks or even months for local businesses to secure some FSM payments even on a post paid basis. If the invoice is over \$1000 it takes even longer because it has to be reviewed by a completely separate department.

Perhaps it is time for the FSM to consider whether or not it is serious about development of the private sector as it has said it is and get their policies more in line with that goal.

Seriously, one ounce of doing outweighs 24 metric tons (26,400 pounds) of talk. Local businesses suffer as they wait for the FSM, the moon and a non-existent "planet" to align and so does the economy on all levels.

Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Government of Kosrae State (the Government) is inviting qualified contractors to submit their bid proposals and qualifications.

Separate sealed Bids for the Construction of Lelu Water System Improvement project will be received by:

Honorable Lyndon H. Jackson
Governor
Kosrae State
P.O. Box 158
Kosrae, FM 96944

and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud.

The contract Document may be examined at the following locations:

1. Office of the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure, Kosrae State
2. E. M. Chen & Associates, Inc. 100L Army Drive Suite 201, Barrigada, Guam.

Copies of Contract Documents including plans and specifications may be obtained at the Issuing Office, the Office of Construction & Engineering located at Kosrae State or at the Office of E. M. Chen & Associates, Inc. upon payment of Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00) for each set of documents (Hard copy) or \$150.00 for Electronic Documents (CD), to the Treasurer, Kosrae State. This payment is non refundable. The original receipt must be presented by the bidder to the Division of Construction & Engineering Office prior to release of Bid Documents.

The Project is being financed by funds from US Department of Agriculture, Rural Development under Water and Waste Disposal programs.

Each bidder must complete, sign and furnish the Bidder's qualification Statement, and other required documents as contained in the bid proposal documents with the submission of the Bid Proposal.

A Pre-bid conference will be held on March 19, 2012 in the Conference Room of the Kosrae Administration Building at 9:00 A.M. Bidders who have not visited the site shall contact the Office of the Division of Construction and Engineering for a site visit arrangement to familiarize themselves with the actual site conditions. Questions should be submitted to the Office of Construction & Engineering, Kosrae State in writing at least two weeks prior to the bid opening date.

Each proposal shall be on the form furnished in this bid proposal and document. Kosrae State Government, for its best interest, reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted and reserves the right to waive any defect in said bids, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in owner's best interest. The bidder shall furnish, as part of his/her bid, a bid security by and approved surety company, a certified check, or cashier's check in the amount of not less than 10% of the total bid price.

This Project requires compliance with Executive Order 11246, entitled, "Equal Employment Opportunity", as amended by Executive Order 11375 and as supplemented in Department of Labor regulations (41 CFR Part 60).

JICA donates nets to help fight Dengue Fever



On Wednesday, February 29, 2012, Mr. Naoyoshi Sasaki, Japanese International Cooperative Association Resident Representative (upper left) presented mosquito nets to Dr. Vita A. Skilling, FSM Secretary of Health and Social Affairs. The mosquito repellent impregnated bed nets were intended to have been delivered to the FSM in December to help fight the dengue fever outbreak in Yap but only just arrived. Dr. Skilling thanked Mr. Sasaki for the kind donation and said that the nets will be put to good use especially in one of the outer islands of Yap. She announced that the Yap dengue fever outbreak is on the decline but that outbreak was not the first of its kind in the FSM and that the remaining mosquito nets would be stock piled in the event of a future outbreak.



7:00 A.M., Saturday, March 17
 Start/Finish – Palm Terrace Store
 \$5.00 Registration Fee
 T-Shirt To All
 Trophies To Top Finishers
 All Funds Raised Will Go To The Scholarship
 Register At FSM Dept Of Health & Social Affairs And FSMNOC
 For Information Call 320-8914



Assistant Program Manager, AusAID

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for the position of **Assistant Program Manager** for AusAID's Development Co-operation program located at the Australian Embassy, Pohnpei. The AusAID Development Co-operation program is implemented across the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palau.

The **Assistant Program Manager** will work with, and under the direction of the Senior Program Manager, AusAID Pohnpei. The Assistant Program Manager is responsible for administering AusAID scholarships, the Micronesia Small Grants Scheme, and other development assistance activities as endorsed by AusAID.

The person that we are seeking will have experience in program or project management and implementation, with strong organisational, time management and administrative skills. He/she will use initiative and be able to work with minimal supervision. A high-level of communication and writing skills as well as sound computer skills are required.

Relevant tertiary qualifications, experience in working in a multicultural environment as well as experience in development programs or projects will be highly regarded.

Salary:
 Negotiable salary of USD 16,000 to USD20,000 per annum, commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Application process:
 Interested applicants need to submit a resume/CV and address the Selection Criteria. The Information Pack which contains the Selection Criteria and Duty Statement may be obtained from <http://www.fsm.embassy.gov.au/phpi/home.html> or by contacting Erin Magee at erin.magee@ausaid.gov.au

Once complete, please email your application addressing the Selection Criteria, together with your resume/CV to erin.magee@ausaid.gov.au.

Closing date for applications is close of business on 30 March 2012.

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

THE COMMUNITY BULLETIN IS A FREE MESSAGE BOARD EXCLUSIVE TO ANNOUNCEMENTS. TO POST YOUR ANNOUNCEMENTS TO THE KASELEHLIE PRESS:

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- Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Wednesday at Cantero Hall at the Roman Catholic vicariate office at 7:00 p.m. Public welcome.
- Pohnpei Lions Club meets monthly every 4th Tuesday at Kia's Restaurant at 6:30 p.m. Public Welcome.
- The Christian Ministerial Association of Pohnpei meets the third Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in Cantero Hall at the Roman Catholic vicariate office.
- Devotions every Sunday 9:30 a.m. at the Bahai Center in Dolonier. For details, call 320-2182.
- Habitat for Humanity Pohnpei holds their meetings every Tuesday from 11:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. at the Sei Restaurant.
- Soccer practice/games at PICS field Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 5:30 p.m. Everyone welcome.
- The Rotary Club of Pohnpei holds its weekly meetings Thursdays at 12:15 p.m. at PCR Nantehlik.
- St John's Catholic Church in Kosrae conducts services every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. For further information, call 370-3240 or 370-3209.
- FANGO holds its monthly Issue Based Dialogue (IBD) on the last Wednesday of each month at the Sei Restaurant at 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. The public is welcome.
- The Rotary Club of Truk Lagoon holds its weekly meetings every Wednesday at 12:00 Noon at the High Tides Restaurant. You are welcome to attend and can contact us at: rotarycluboftruklagoon@yahoo.com
- Pacific Mission Fellowship - A Bible-based English Worship Service invites you to join us on Sundays for worship at 9am - 11am. Children's Church for the kids too! Call: 320-2496

ANOTHER CLASSIC LIMERICK BROUGHT TO YOU BY

TRASHBUSTERS

One day a man of good cheer
 Asked DesCartes if he'd like a beer.
 What the man got
 Was "I think not";
 And he watched DesCartes disappear.

Editor's Note: DesCartes was the philosopher who said "I think therefore I am." (okay, this cracked me up!)

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Island Food Community of Pohnpei proposed the Strategic Action Plans for the next three years

By Chizuru Seki (JICA)
Island Food Community of Pohnpei

On February 28, 2012, Island Food Community of Pohnpei (IFCP) held the second day of Strategic Action Plan (SAP) Retreat at the J's Ocean Side.

Chair of the IFCP Board, Adelino Lorens, Board of directors (Engly Ioanis, Gibson Susumu, Rainer Jimmy, Penny Weilbacher, Yvonne Hawkins and X-ner Luther), IFCP partners (Conservation Society of Pohnpei, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and United States Embassy), Mr. Konrad Englberger and IFCP staff attended the retreat to finish up the draft of IFCP SAP for the next three years.

Continuing from the last retreat on February 7, 2012, Mr. Bill Raynor, one of the IFCP founding board members and a current board member, facilitated the retreat.

First, revised IFCP vision and mission was presented, and participants added comments to finalize them. Vision represents the impact IFCP would like to have in the future focusing on CHEEF (Culture, Health, Environment, Economy and Food Security) benefits of local food. IFCP revised mission

will be shorter and memorable.

Then, participants were divided into three groups (awareness, research and local food policy) to review and make necessary changes on goals, objectives and activities on each focused area for the next three year SAP developed on the first day of SAP Retreat.

The second day of SAP retreat was focused on capacity assessment. To conduct the proposed activities to achieve projected objectives and goals, IFCP's human and funding sources were taken into account.

Each group came up with estimated budget and necessary personnel for each activity. If it is determined that IFCP will not have the capacity to conduct the activity, it is very important to specify the partners who will assist the work of IFCP.

Once participants were regrouped into one, SAP for each focuses area was evaluated. Projected SAP will be finalized by the IFCP board of directors, and implemented for the next three years.

After the quick local food lunch break, monitoring and evaluation of SAP was discussed to prevent IFCP SAP being unachieved. For instance, IFCP board member will check the progress every six month. How to monitor and evaluate IFCP SAP will be concluded by the IFCP board of directors and staff.

Overall, IFCP board members, partners and staff reached consensus on focusing the work of IFCP on implementing the awareness in communities and schools, research and

local food policy.

The result of two days IFCP strategic action plan retreat will be put together by IFCP staff and distributed to the IFCP board members as well as its partners.

The next IFCP board meeting will be held in April, 2012. IFCP SAP will be concentered at the meeting and used to instruct the IFCP staff.

IFCP would like to thank IFCP Strategic Action Planning Retreat Participants for taking their precious time and inputting their ideas to help IFCP to take advance steps in its Go Local campaign.

Special thanks are given to Mr. Bill Raynor for facilitating both days of IFCP SAP Retreat.

IFCP would like to thank its current funding sources: SPC CePaCT, Australian Embassy, SPC Healthy Life-Style and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).



IFCP board members, partners and staff concluded its Strategic Action Plan Retreat

Pohnpei Bananas and their dishes were filmed for the Oceanic Culture Museum, Okinawa, Japan

By Chizuru Seki (JICA)
Island Food Community of Pohnpei

On Friday, February 24, 2012, Island Food Community of Pohnpei (IFCP) worked together with two Japanese film makers, Mr. Masakatsu Oki, camera man, and Ms. Kyoko Miyazawa, director.

They were here in Pohnpei to create the film about Micronesian culture for the Oceanic Culture Museum in Okinawa, Japan.

In Pohnpei, they focused on Pohnpei bananas. IFCP staff prepared banana dishes (Sun dried daiwang banana, Uht sukuuk, pihlohlo, boiled karat banana) for the film. They shot each step of the different banana recipe preparation and the cooking scenes.

Japanese film crew was very interested in filming local earth oven, uhmw, in which one of the banana dishes, pihlohlo, was baked.

They came back to IFCP on Sunday, February 26, 2012 and took photos of about seven bananas growing in banana collection site behind the IFCP training center.

The film will be edited and completed by 2013, and will be shown in the Oceanic Culture Museum, Okinawa, Japan. The

copy of a film will be obtained by IFCP and used as an educational material as well as traditional knowledge preservation material.

Special thanks are given to FSM Land Based Archeologist, Mr. Adam Tyler Thompson of FSM Office of National Archives, Culture, and Historic Preservation, Nahnpei or Mr. Antonio Martin of Pohnpei Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Historic Preservation, Mike Iehsi of Office of Economic Affairs, Mwoakilloa First Lady, Mrs. Yumiko Lebehn, and Mrs. Mihpel Olter Susaia

IFCP would like to thank the SPC CePaCT, Australian Government, SPC Healthy Life-Style for their funding support.



IFCP staff and Mwoakilloa First Lady, Mrs. Yumiko Lebehn are demonstrating a cooking method of local banana recipe



AUSTRALIAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIP (ARDS) INTAKE YEAR 2013

Opening Date: 22 February 2012
Closing Date: 30 March 2012

Eligible citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia are invited to apply for awards commencing in January 2013 for full time undergraduate and post-graduate study in Fiji, Vanuatu and Samoa. Awards cover tuition, accommodation, living expenses and airfares.

To be eligible to apply students must:

- Have completed an Associate Degree or equivalent, or due to complete by June 2012 with minimum GPA of 2.8, OR
- Be over 25 years with High School GPA 2.8 or above and have a minimum of 5 years work experience related to the field of study.

Students just finishing High School are NOT eligible.

Expression of Interest Forms are available at:
the Australian Embassy website www.fsm.embassy.gov.au
the FSM National Scholarship Office
Pohnpei Dept of Education, Scholarship Office,
Kosrae: Dept of Education, Scholarship Office,
Yap: Dept of Resources & Dev, Scholarship Office,
Chuuk: Dept of Education, Scholarship Office,
the COM Financial Aid Office, Pohnpei
the Australian Embassy, HE Building (next to Sea Breeze Hotel)

All completed Expression of Interest Forms should be submitted to the appropriate Scholarship Boards office above by **30 March 2012**.

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2nd FSM / 29th POHNPEI CULTURAL DAY

March 30-31, 2012
 at Botanical Garden in Kolonia

EXPERIENCE THE TASTE OF FSM CULTURE AND TRADITION !



We are looking for volunteers and donations for the event. contact Kester James at Pohnpei State Social Affairs Tel: 320-2650 /5142

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