

The KASELEHLIE PRESS

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FSM's eighteenth Congress selects Halbert as Speaker

Congress Public Information Office

May 11, 2013

Palikir, Pohnpei - The Opening Session of the new Eighteenth Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia convened in Palikir this morning and reshuffled the leadership of the national legislative body.

Senator Dohsis Halbert of Pohnpei has been seated as the Body's new Speaker with Senator Paliknoa K. Welly of Kosrae as the new Vice Speaker and Florencio Singkoro Harper of Chuuk maintained as Floor Leader of the new 18th FSM Congress.

Opening Sessions not only mark the First Regular Session of a new Congress, but it also provides the platform for reorganization of the Congress leadership. With the new Presiding Officers, Congress reshuffled its' chairmanship for the Congressional Committees.

The Presiding Officers of the new Eighteenth FSM Congress are:

- Speaker: Senator Dohsis Halbert
- Vice Speaker: Senator Paliknoa K. Welly
- Floor Leader: Senator F. Singkoro Harper

The Chairperson for the seven Congressional Committees are:

1. Senator Isaac V. Figir, Committee on Ways and Means;
2. Senator David W. Panuelo, Committee on Resources and Development;

See Congress on page 9



Speaker Dohsis Halbert (top);
Senators stand for swearing in (left);
Senator Victor "Vicky" Gouland, the newest member of Congress (above)

SNLC endorses recommendations of FSM Symposium on Investment Facilitation

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

May 10, 2013

Palikir, Pohnpei, FSM— FSM State and National government representatives met at the gymnasium at the College of Micronesia-FSM this morning for a State and National Leadership Conference (SNLC). Primary on the agenda was consideration of the work done by the participants at the Symposium on Investment Facilitation in the FSM that took place in the same location from May 6-9.



FSM's Vice President Alik Alik addresses SNLC delegates (left)
Pohnpei's Governor Ehsa, chairman of SNLC consults with Secretary of R&D Marion Henry (above)

According to Secretary for Resources and Development Marion Henry whose office served as the secretariat for the SNLC, the government officials adopted all of the recommendations made by the participants in the investment symposium. At press time his office had not yet released the SNLC communiqué.

"The main objective of the Symposium was to discuss and recommend options and strategies to facilitate investment in the FSM, focusing on improving the business climate, enhancing financial literacy of the private sector as well as

See "SNLC" on page 5

Senate group OKs Medicaid for Micronesian migrants

By **Anita Hofschneider**
Associated Press

May 14, 2013

HONOLULU— The latest version of the U.S. Senate immigration reform bill restores Medicaid eligibility to migrants from three Pacific island nations in Micronesia.

The Senate Judiciary Committee voted Tuesday to reinstate eligibility by adopting an amendment from U.S. Sen. Mazie Hirono. The Democrat from Hawaii says the move will save the state millions of dollars each year.

Citizens of the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia have the right to live and work in the U.S. under international treaties.

In exchange, the U.S. military controls extensive strategic land and water in the Pacific Ocean between Hawaii and China. That includes Kwajalein Atoll, the site of missile testing and space activities.

But the international agreements have caused tension between the U.S. federal government and state and territorial governments over who should pay for providing services to migrants.

In 1996, Congress revoked migrants' eligibility for Medicaid, the federal health program for low-income people. The move shifted the financial burden for health care to states and territories.

Residents of Guam, Hawaii and the Northern Mariana Islands have felt the greatest fiscal impact. Between 2004 and 2010, all three reported spending more than \$1 billion to provide services for the migrants, mainly for education and health care. That doesn't take into account the contributions migrants have made through taxes and labor.

The federal government spent more than \$200 million during the same time period to compensate the local governments. But state and territorial leaders have said the money is far from enough.

In Hawaii, public outcry against the rising health care costs caused the state Legislature to significantly cut health care benefits for the community three years ago. A federal judge struck down the move as discriminatory.

Advocates for providing health care to migrants have said the U.S. has a moral imperative to do so because of the negative health effects of U.S. nuclear testing in the Pacific. Critics have countered that the cost is too high.

More than 50,000 people—almost a fourth of the population of all three nations—have already moved to the U.S. They have settled in various states including California, Oregon and Arkansas.

Vice President Alik urges students to know their governments and do well in school

FSM Information Services

May 16, 2013

The FSM Close Up program is busy this week with over forty students visiting the FSM National Government as part of their activities this year under the theme of "Education in the face of Climate Change".

This morning, the 17th Close Up program students and their chaperones coming from all the four states in the FSM had the opportunity to engage with Vice President Alik L. Alik in an interactive discussion as arranged by the FSM National Department of Education represented by Mr. Wayne Mendiola who coordinates the week-long activities.

In welcoming the students and the support staff, Vice President Alik touched briefly on President Manny Mori's medical trip to the Philippines and expressed his happiness to take part in their educational visit to the Nation's Capitol. He then shared some parts of his career background and the succession of diplomatic postings that preceded his taking up of political office

as a FSM Congressman for the State of Kosrae, resulting in his election as the FSM Vice President.

In his remarks, vice President Alik encouraged the students to dig deep in understanding the ways the National and State Government operate separately and as a federation. He underscored the FSM's needs of highly educated citizens, inviting the students to look broadly in choosing the higher educational institutions with quality programs in the region and abroad. He impressed upon his young listeners his desire that highly educated Micronesian prioritize contributing back to their country in terms of employment or other ways of support.

The students on their part raised a number of sharp questions that were mostly nationally focused such as the processes for formulating and implementing public laws regulating public projects; whether the Compact related "entry right" to the United States would be maintained beyond 2023; the effects of migration patterns by FSM citizens and others on the FSM in the longer term; whether or not the Merit Scholarship eligible receivers could also



17th Close Up program students and their chaperones

include high school salutatorians; etc.

The students also made a few state-based inquiries. A Yapese student was curious about Vice President Alik's view on the investment interest by ETG in Yap State. In response, Vice President Alik made it clear that it would be the people of Yap to decide what the right response should be in this case. However, he high-beamed

the necessity to welcome investment opportunities at home that would fit our situations, enhance growth and protect our environment in transparent and prudent ways.

In closing, Vice President Alik invited the students to seek direct communications on issues that impact them not only as students but also as concern citizens.

The Kaselehlie Press

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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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Our Lady of Mercy debaters to represent Pohnpei at nationals in Chuuk

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

May 13, 2013

Peilapalap, Pohnpei, FSM—Seven High School debate teams from Pohnpei faced off in the State debate today in the conference room of the Pohnpei Government Complex. It was a tight contest that ended with the team from Our Lady of Mercy High School taking the top prize.

The winning team will represent Pohnpei State at the National debate, scheduled to take place in Chuuk on July 12 where they will face off against the teams from each of the other three FSM States.

Debaters in today's contest argued for or against a proposed constitutional amendment involving the creation of four additional "at large" seats at the

FSM Congress that would be reserved specifically for women. They were charged with arguing for or against the following statement, "Be it resolved that the FSM Constitution should be amended to create an additional 'at large' seat in the FSM Congress for each of the four States, election to which shall be open only to women candidates."

teams that trailed the third place team was tiny. The scores varied by just a point or two.

Pohnpei Island Central School (PICS) entered two teams. The second PICS team entered after Ohwa School canceled its participation. Calvary Christian Academy, and Madolenihmw High School also had debate teams.

Emy Musrasrik was the moderator for the debate.

The judges were Senator Magdalena Walter of the Pohnpei State Legislature, Salomon Saimon of Micronesia Legal Services, and Madolenihmw Chief Justice Walber Hadley.

Nanpei Memorial High School came in second in the debate scoring. Seventh Day Adventist School came in third.

The point spread amongst the debate



Our Lady of Mercy High School debate team



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Test shows that Pohnpei's piggeries are fouling Pohnpei waters

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

May 15, 2013

Pohnpei, FSM—A water quality survey of 41 Pohnpei rivers and perennial streams shows that a majority of them do not meet standards for fresh water recreational use. 28 rivers and streams (68 percent) had *E. coli* levels higher than the recreational standard for fresh water.

One river, the Dauen Neu in Kolonia tested at more than 100 times the level that is considered safe for human recreational use. None tested at levels that are safe for drinking.

The purpose of the test was to determine how Pohnpei's hundreds of piggeries affect the water quality of its rivers and subsequently, the health of its people.

The recreational standard is less than 576 mpn (most probable number of organisms) per 100 milliliters for *E. coli*. 28 (68 percent) of the 41 rivers and perennial streams tested in Pohnpei did not meet the standards for safe human recreational use. The standard for drinking water is 0 mpn per 100 milliliters of water. No tested rivers in Pohnpei tested at anywhere near that standard. The lowest tested level was 115 mpn/100 ml in the Kepin Mwomwi.

Mark Kostka of the College of Micronesia FSM said that where rivers and streams ran through areas of high population density the *E. coli* levels were higher; in some cases, much higher. While human waste could contribute to the problem in high population density areas, surveyors say that waste from Pohnpei's piggeries is anecdotally the largest likely contributor to *E. coli* levels. If piggeries management is left unchecked, cases of diarrheal sicknesses from *E. coli* levels, and leptospirosis which is transmitted by the urine of infected livestock will only continue to increase.

A representative of Community Health who did not want to be identified said that the number one cause of hospital admits in Pohnpei is non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and heart disease. However, she said that during the rainy season the hospital does expect higher incidences of leptospirosis or illnesses related to *E. coli* infection.

The two rivers that were tested in Kolonia town, Pohnpei's most densely populated area didn't fare so well on the *E. coli* level scale. Dauen Neu had the highest level of *E. coli* in Pohnpei. It tested at 58,500 mpn, over 100 times the level considered safe. Nintu's level when tested was 19,500 mpn.

The Kolonia Town government is getting serious about enforcing its piggeries ordinances. "People are getting really angry about it," said a spokesperson for Kolonia Town. "They say that pigs are really

important and they are but if they're going to have pigs they have to abide by our ordinances," he said. People in Kolonia who have pigs are required to have septic systems for pig waste but many are not abiding by that requirement. "Pigs are making our people sick."

He said that the government has already gone out in Kolonia and conducted inspections. Next week they will be concentrating on Zone 3 to see if citizens have done anything to get into compliance. If they haven't, the government will be issuing citations to piggeries violators. He said that the first offense will be a fairly small fine; really just an attention getter. If there is a second offense the fine will be higher. If a resident does not come into compliance and gathers a third offense the penalty will be criminal. Third offense violators can be jailed for three months and charged an even higher fine.

The spokesperson said that the test results were what opened the eyes of the Kolonia Town government to the severity of the problem and Mayor Cassiano Shoniber is very serious about cleaning up Kolonia Town.

Sondau in Sokehs tested at a safe recreational level at 480 mpn but two other rivers in Sokehs didn't fare quite so well, both of them in Sekere. Dolon tested at 17,000 mpn and the Sekere River, which flows next to the Sekere Elementary School, tested at 24,001 mpn, nearly 42 times the safe level of recreational activity.

The river with the lowest *E. coli* level in Pohnpei was the Kepin Mwomwi in Kitti. Of the 13 rivers and streams tested in Kitti, seven of them had levels considered to be safe for recreational use, including Lehn Mesi, Pohnpei's largest river. Two of the tested rivers had levels only slightly higher than is acceptable. The rest had substantially higher levels. The worst was Diadi at 18,000 mpn per 100 milliliters of water, 31 times the level considered to be safe.

U had no rivers that were within the "safe range" though Diadi in U was right on the edge at 580. Nihmoak was the worst at 24,001 followed by Awak at 20,000.

Nett also had no rivers that were in the "safe range". Meitik was at 3,000 and Lowetik was at 2300. Kahmar, the popular swimming river where some Pohnpei athletes have trained in years past was at 745.

The survey included 12 rivers in Madolenihmw. Five of those rivers had *E. coli* levels lower than the "acceptable" rate. Madolenihmw's worst was Ipwitek at 3,150 followed by Parahu/Mahnd at 2900.

Kostka said that Glen K. Fukumoto of the University



of Hawaii at Manoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human resources spearheaded the survey which he has done before. Fukumoto said that the team could not have possibly carried out the testing without the help of EPA personnel and its laboratory.

Kostka said that *E. coli* levels can change, sometimes dramatically depending on water flow, or changed circumstances upstream. It is not accurate to say that *E. coli* levels are lower in rivers when there is more water flow caused by rain because in fact rain often washes more waste products into rivers. He said that with the exception of one test site, the survey team tested each site only once. Awak was a test case. They tested the *E. coli* level many times during a 12 hour period. Awak was very high at 20,000 mpn/100 ml.

The team also recorded turbidity levels. Turbidity is a measurement of solids that remain in solution that don't immediately sink to the bottom. The more floating solids, the cloudier the water looks. It is measured in "ntu's" (nephelometric turbidity units). Kostka said that the closer a turbidity measurement is to 1.0 the less cloudy it appears.

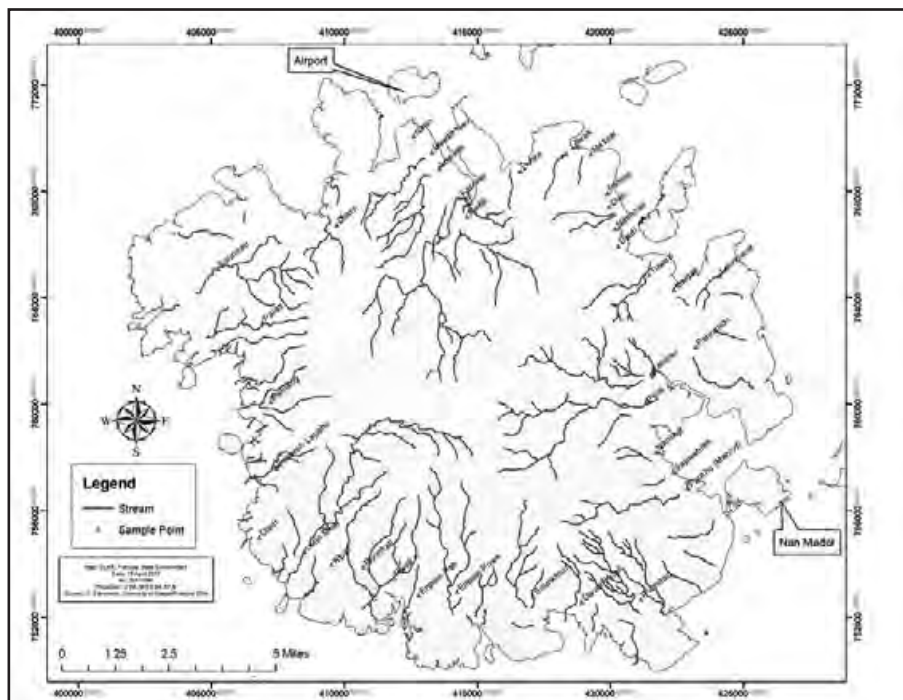
Turbidity is an important standard of water quality, especially for drinking water because bacteria can cling to the solids and the solids can also affect the effectiveness of water treatment methods. 1.0 ntu is the standard for drinking water.

In this test the readings showed that river water can appear to be very cloudy but still have a low *E. coli* measurement, and vice versa. "Just because a river looks clean doesn't necessarily mean that it is," Kostka said.

The Dauen Neu River in Kolonia which flows adjacent to Ace Office Supply had the highest *E. coli* measurement of 58,500 mpn per 100 milliliters of water but to the naked eye it looked almost completely clear. It had a turbidity measurement of 1.52 ntu—almost crystal clear. Meanwhile, the Pahnahdo River in Madolenihmw had an acceptable recreational use level of *E. coli* at 410 mpn per 100 milliliters of water but had a comparatively high turbidity level of 5.72.

Kostka said that the team did not take *E. coli* measurements downstream from emergency sewage outflows because that reading would not have provided a clear picture of the impact of piggeries in Pohnpei.

The matter of sewage overflow from pumping stations is a health issue most notably for those people who live downstream from the outflow pipes on the river close to INS Store in Kepinle, or the outflow on the Liwy river amongst others. That problem could be the subject for an entirely different study.



Eighteenth FSM Congress delegation meets with President Mori at the start of first session

FSM Information Services

May 14, 2013

Palikir, Pohnpei - In the morning of May 13, a Congressional Special Committee met with President Manny Mori as the new Eighteenth FSM Congress began its first session after getting organized on May 11.

The Special Committee composed of Senator Yosiwo P. George, Chairman, Senator Joseph J. Urusemal, Senator Peter M. Christian and Senator Wesley W. Simina.

In opening the meeting, President Mori welcomed the committee and extended his congratulations to the Eighteenth FSM Congress and its new leadership who have assumed their various posts as a result of decisions undertaken last Saturday – the first day.

President Mori expressed appreciation for the provision of \$2.5 million made during the last special session (April 29-May 6) which will provide for the upgrade and improvement of airports throughout the FSM, including outer island airports.

Additionally, the President informed the committee that he intended to submit to Congress a list of outstanding fiscal year

2013 budget requests that have yet to be given funds. The details pertaining to these funding requests would be subsequently transmitted to Congress in the next few days pending updated verification of available funds for the remainder of the fiscal year by the Department of Finance and Administration.

Furthermore, the need to continually invest in the FSM Trust Fund primarily for environmental disaster purposes was also raised along with some exchanges regarding the President's preference to make available "set aside" funds to enable other investment activities as may be determined leading up to 2023.

President Mori also informed the committee that he would travel off-island for medical checkup beginning May 14. For this reason, he indicated his desire that the invitation for the President to address the Congress during this session on the "State of the Nation" be flexible in terms of timing in consideration of probable scheduling constraints and to accord the President the opportunity to make the address at a later session, if necessitated.

Among a number of comments made by the committee, Chairman George thanked the President for his time and assured that Congress was ready to undertake its tasks this session. He also commented on the recent investment symposium and inquired whether Congress would receive its outcome report or related matters.

Other Members made inquiries and requests relating to their specific Standing Committee jurisdictions, stressing the need for departments to be fully equipped with information that facilitate the conduct of budget hearings for both fy13 supplemental requests and the starting of fy14 budgetary meetings.

With regards the President's medical trip, the committee pointed out that Officials' responsibilities to the Nation are highly important at the same time also highlighted that personal health and wellbeing must remain their primary concern.

President Mori was joined by Vice President Alik L. Alik and members of the cabinet and staff.

...SNLC

Continued from front page

the confidence of financial institutions to lend to the private sector, with the ultimate objective of achieving economic growth and sustainable development as the Nation prepares for 2023," the outcomes document said.

The symposium began with an address by FSM President Manny Mori. The President stressed that the convening of the Symposium was timely as the Country mobilizes to address the termination of financial assistance under the amended Compact of Free Association in 2023. He said that under current conditions the Trust Fund, which has not at all performed as it was expected to have done, will only provide about \$50 million annually beginning in 2023 which would leave a budgetary shortfall of approximately \$150 million annually.

The FSM needs foreign investors because the country cannot build the economy on its own. He recommended that the nation return to a centralized process of foreign investment authorization at the National Government.

He also said that the nation needs to modernize its tax system. He said that the tax reform process is at a "critical crossroad" and that the time has come to make decisions. "Do we move forward or unsustainably maintain the status quo?" He asked.

He pointed out that many of the issues on the agenda for the symposium are not new. "We have continued to discuss but we haven't done much" he said. He challenged the participants, many of them from the State and National governments and from the private sector, to "whip up the political will to walk the talk and get the job done."

"If others have done it we can do it too," he said, and quoted Albert Einstein who said, "We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them."

Along with government officials the participants in the symposium included representatives from the private sector and Non-governmental community based organizations. Ambassador George Hara, Special Adviser to the Cabinet, Office of the Prime Minister of Japan and Chairman of the Alliance Forum Foundation was also in attendance as was Mrs. Dianne Masih-Reddy, Senior Manager of Investment Fiji. International organizations, banks, and other organizations were

also in attendance.

The Symposium put their recommendations, proposed options and strategies into an implementation matrix which was not shared with The Kaselehlie Press. That detailed matrix provided implementation strategies on the following issues listed in the outcomes document as follows:

A. Enhancing harmonization and predictability of foreign investment regimes in the FSM.

- a. Harmonize substantive issues in foreign investment regimes across the four States; and
- b. Harmonize national laws affecting investment in the FSM, including foreign investment laws, insurance laws, banking laws and regulatory requirements.

B. Enhancing investor protection

- a. Develop and establish time standards for State Courts based on the FSM Supreme Court model;
- b. Make relevant State Court decisions available on the FSM Supreme Court website; and
- c. Seek technical assistance to train future Mediators with a view to start Alternative Dispute Resolutions in Chuuk, Yap, and Pohnpei.

C. Enhancing the use of land and protection of land owners and investors

- a. Encourage all State to undertake registration of all land-related transaction; and
- b. Review with a view to strengthen the intellection property rights regime and the enforcement agencies, including a review of FSM participation in international intellectual property rights conventions.

D. Enhancing the transparency and streamlining the process of starting business in the FSM

- a. Establish a one window shop with the FSM Department of R&D to handle foreign investment under the Nation Government jurisdiction and gradually expand its mandate to foreign investment under the State jurisdictions;
- b. Enhance the existing online information system on investment at the FSM Department of R&D, and gradually develop an online application system; and
- c. Streamline the approval process in line with the current 7 day policy for registration of corporations.

E. New approach to investment promotion

- a. Establish an Investment Promotion Agency at the national level.

F. Private Sector Development and FSM citizens residing overseas

- a. Assess and strengthen the capacity of existing SBDCs to deliver private sector support;
- b. Develop a database of FSM entrepreneurs by sector of activities with information on women engaged in business; and
- c. Create a data base of FSM entrepreneurs and highly skilled FSM citizens residing overseas.

The Kaselehlie Press

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Deadlines for both are July 1, 2013.

Chuuk Advisory Group on Education Reform

Second quarterly meetings of the Chuuk Advisory Group on Education Reform

May 3, 2013

Weno, Chuuk, FSM—The Chuuk Advisory Group on Education Reform (AG) held its second set of meetings in Weno, Chuuk, from April 29th through May 3rd. The Advisory Group is tasked with assisting the Chuuk State Board of Education in monitoring and implementing Chuuk State Education Reforms. The Advisory Group was established as an agreed outcome of high level meetings held by the United States Government, FSM National Government and Chuuk State Government in November of 2012. This Advisory Group held its first meeting in January of this year.

Members of the Advisory Group include three eminent friends of Chuuk State: Thomas Bussanich, Director of the Division of Budget and Grants Management in the Office of Insular Affairs within the United States Department of Interior; Patrick Tellei, President of Palau Community College; and Francis X. Hezel, a Jesuit Priest and founder of the Micronesian Seminar.

During their stay in Weno, the Advisory Group met with the Governor, the leadership of the Legislature, the Board of Education, the Director of Education and Department of Education staff on multiple occasions. At this round of Meetings, the AG worked with the Chuuk Board of Education to finalize the selection of three consultants who will provide expert advice to the Board and the AG in the implementation of the reform process. The consultants are expected to be on the ground and working in Chuuk within 4 to 6 weeks.

In addition to the selection of the consultants, the AG focused on fine-tuning a set of anticipated deliverables from the existing reform program. This included the development of a list of priority projects for the consultants to begin supporting within the Education Department, continued work on the Chuuk High School Pilot Program, acceleration of community involvement, implementation of recommended Facilities

Master Plan projects, including the completion of a number of primary school consolidations, the development of a contract system for Chuuk school teachers and the creation of a comprehensive school monitoring system to insure the attendance of principals, teachers and students on a daily basis.

In their meetings, the Advisory Group once again confirmed their simple and overriding concerns that 1) students must have safe and sanitary learning environments, 2) classrooms must have qualified teachers, 3) classrooms must have the necessary school supplies, 4) principals, teachers and students must be present for class and 5) learning must take place. Advisory Group member Patrick Tellei indicated that "if we are successful in increasing the levels of attendance, we will see an immediate improvement in performance."

With regard to community involvement in this process, Father Francis Hezel, SJ, stressed that "communities must be held accountable for their own schools, and if they are not willing to do so, funding must instead go to those communities that support the improvement of their schools through direct community involvement."

The Advisory Group will meet again sometime in early August, prior to the Joint Economic Management Committee meetings, when the Chuuk budget will be reviewed along with the entire budget for the Federated States of Micronesia. According to Tom Bussanich, "it is time that we tie our very limited resources under the Compact of Free Association to programs and projects that provide the greatest benefit to the people of Chuuk State and the Federated States of Micronesia. To date, the education programs in Chuuk State have not met these criteria. I am very hopeful that the work of the Board of Education, with the assistance of the Advisory Group on the Chuuk State Education Reform, will correct this long-standing problem."

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NTMC Facts:

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The College was founded in 2009 and chartered in 2010. The 1st freshmen intake was in 2012; Fall 2013, will be the 2nd intake of 20 students.

NTMC is "Tuition-free" institution for the Micronesians (6-year M.D. program).

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Commemorative Dr. Lois Englberger stamp issued

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

May 8, 2013

Pohnpei, FSM—At 10:00 this morning a small crowd gathered in the parking lot of the Pohnpei Post Office to celebrate the First Day of Issue Ceremony of a commemorative stamp honoring the life and work of Dr. Lois Englberger. Dr. Englberger's contribution to the understanding of the nutritional value of local foods was enormous and internationally recognized. She co-founded the Island Food Community of Pohnpei and tirelessly worked as its Acting Director and Research Advisor to educate and promote the value of nutritious local foods until she passed away on September 29, 2011.

"Dr. Englberger reminds us that it is all too easy to lose sight of what we have right on our door steps," said Senator David Panuelo during his keynote address. "I cannot overemphasize how important it is to maintain our culture, our heritage, and our identity, the things that make us the special people that we are and the unique country that we are. We eat these foods, not just because they are nutritional and delicious, not just because they are what the Lord has provided for us, but because they are part of who we are as Micronesian people."

was the chairman of the Justice and Governmental Operations standing committee of the 17th FSM Congress. He is now the chairman of the Resources and Development Committee.

Senator Panuelo said that the issuance of a stamp in Dr. Englberger's honor is only fitting. "It was at the urging of Dr. Englberger some years ago that FSM Postal Services issued postage stamps featuring local foods, including the Karat banana. The Karat banana is a special and unique fruit, as Dr. Lois Englberger was a special and unique person who recognized its nutritional value. Dr. Lois Englberger did not just analyze the nutritional value of our local foods as a scientist; she passionately promoted them as an activist. From the Karat banana to the pandanus to the giant taro, Dr. Englberger worked tirelessly with local partners to revitalize and promote these special parts of the FSM cuisine. Her Island Food Community of Pohnpei has spread to all four FSM states. Today, I would like to thank the Island Food Community, an important local NGO, for continuing the spirit of 'Go Local'."

At the time of his speech, Senator Panuelo

Dr. Englberger's husband Konrad gave



Senator David Panuelo and Konrad Englberger

emotional remarks thanking the FSM for remembering his wife, her passion and activism. He said that just a few days before, he received a copy of her very last publication. It was obviously very emotionally tender for Konrad to speak about his wife in front of so many people. He kept his remarks short.

Adelino Lorens, who chairs the Pohnpei Island Food Community board had been scheduled to speak at the ceremony but was off island. Rainer Jimmy, a board member spoke in his place and gave his personal remembrances of Lois, her work,

and her life ethic.

The front row at the ceremony was filled with dignitaries including Governor John Ehsa, member of the Diplomatic Corps, FSM's Secretary for Justice April Skilling, and FSM's first Post Master General Bethwel Henry. Henry was also the first Speaker of the FSM Congress.

FSM Post Master General Ginger Mida presented each of the dignitaries with a framed copy of the Dr. Lois Englberger commemorative stamp.

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Seagrass habitat conditions in Yap

University of Guam Marine Laboratory

Seagrass beds represent highly productive ecosystems that can sustain a variety of fisheries for use by Micronesian societies. However, as watershed development and urbanization grow, seagrass ecosystems can become overwhelmed by excessive pollution, and opportunistic seaweeds can become dominant (such as drifting and clumping macroalgae). The transition from seagrass to macroalgae is bad because macroalgae don't have roots and can't stabilize the sand substrate below, macroalgae offer less habitat structure for juvenile fishes, and macroalgae have faster growth-and-death cycles that leads to the accumulation of decaying plant matter and enhances nutrient availability. At the same time, fish and sea cucumbers are vital to the seagrass ecosystems because they feed upon seagrass, macroalgae, and decaying plant matter. The end result is that both good water quality and sea cucumber abundances are critical for healthy seagrass ecosystems.

These ideas formed the basis for a recent study in Yap that investigated nearshore seagrass habitats. Like many places in Micronesia, fishermen and community members from the villages of Weloy and Dalipebinaw, western coast of Yap Proper, have noticed changes to their nearshore seagrass habitats over time. Generally, the communities have noticed increased growth of macroalgae (mostly unattached seaweed), and in some areas, a reduced amount of seagrass. In order to better understand their situation, a local community organization, Kaday Community and Cultural Development Organization, teamed up with the Yap Environmental Protection Agency, and scientists associated with the Palau Coral Reef Research Center, Pacific Marine Resources Institute, and the University of Guam Marine Lab.

The study first examined two potential sources of watershed pollution, one from surface discharge following rain events, and another from groundwater seepage that percolates through the limestone bedrock, into the island aquifer, and out to the seagrass habitats. Dr. Peter Houk (project scientist) explained how the findings were somewhat unintuitive. Groundwater percolating through the limestone bedrock provided a larger

and more consistent source of freshwater addition to seagrass beds compared with surface discharge during storm events. Groundwater discharge was observed when tidal heights fell below -0.4 m, representing lower tides that were associated with new and full moon periods. In contrast, Dr. Yimnang Golbuu described that surface runoff, even following major rain events, remained in the top 0.5 m of the water column until mixing with offshore waters.

These findings were influential because groundwater discharge patterns were strongly associated with the distribution of seagrass and macroalgae. A team of scientists and community members together documented higher abundances of macroalgae and less seagrass in association with groundwater discharge. However, the team of observers also documented low sea cucumber densities with macroalgae, suggesting a reduced ability to process the decaying plant matter and keep the ecosystem clean. Interestingly, the density of sea cucumbers in the study area (less than 5 individuals per 100 m²) was much lower than comparable seagrass beds in Palau (over 50 individuals per 100 m²). Thus, it appears that both water quality discharge patterns and sea cucumbers are tied with the health of the seagrass habitats. The study concluded with recommendations to improving sea cucumber populations, while developing a follow-up study to better tease apart the exact roles of water quality and secondary consumers in maintaining healthy seagrass habitats.

A final concern for the Yap communities was the potential influence of excess decaying plant matter being exported to their locally-managed marine protected area. The protected area is adjacent to extensive macroalgal growth, and thus, there is a concern that nutrients being released with decaying plant matter may enrich the waters of the protected area.

The present work was published in the journal *Marine Pollution Bulletin* and is available upon request (email Peter Houk, houkp@uguam.uog.edu). The team is grateful to the University of Guam Water and Energy Research Institute, the Micronesian Conservation Trust, and Dr. Bob Richmond from the University of Hawaii for funding and equipment.



Community-based team conducting ecological surveys

Pohnpei Fishing Club Annual Tournament hauls in mighty fish

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

May 16, 2013

Pohnpei, FSM—21 boats entered for last weekend's two day Pohnpei Fishing Club annual tournament. Jeff Ainamea 125 and a half pound tuna may have been a club record catch.

Rules were a little different for the tournament that started on FSM Constitution Day.

"Only big fish counted, but you had to catch more than one to win," an email from club secretary, Steve Finnen said. Minimum qualifying weights for landed fish were established by the club before the tournament began. When the minimum weight for fish was attained "fish points" were awarded at one point per pound.

Glen Hurry won the top prize of \$1000 for his two fish that garnered 168 "fish points". Hurry caught a 94 pound yellow fin tuna on the first day of the tournament and followed it up with a 73 and a half pound sail fish on the next day.

Mary Trettoff earned second place in the tournament. She caught three point fish including a 79 pound yellow fin.

Hurry and Trettoff's yellow fin catches were not the largest yellow fin catch of the tournament. Jeff Ainamea caught what may have been a club record yellow fin that weighed a whopping 125.5 pounds. He won a \$400 prize for that catch.

Walden Weilbacher also caught a huge yellow fin just two pounds short of Ainamea's fish. He won \$300 as his fourth place prize.

John Hedson's point fish earned him \$200 and fifth place in the tournament.

Other prize winners were for biggest fish in each species:

- Billfish – Glen Hurry – 73.5#
- Yellow fin – Jeff Ainamea – 125.5#
- Skipjack – John Hedson – 17#
- Wahoo – Mary Trettoff – 32#
- Mahi Mahi – Arleen David – 25.5#
- Rainbow Runner – John Hedson – 3.5#
- Barracuda – Ross Perkins – 26.5#
- Giant Trevally – Tony Manuel – 53.5#

The Lady Angler award was earned by

125.5 lb Yellow Fin Tuna.
Maybe PFC record breaker



Mary Trettoff for her yellow fin tuna that weighed 79 pounds. The Junior Angler award was earned by Kevin Mix for catching a 15 pound barracuda.

Major sponsors for the annual two day tournament were Ambros, Inc. Guam who provided beer and t-shirts. Other major sponsors were TriMarine, Pan Pacific Seafoods, Luen Thai Fishing Venture, Ltd., MRAG Asia Pacific, Halco Lures, and Pacific Ocean Producers.

Winners in each species category received gift certificates from sponsors Blue Nile, Ace Hardware, Ace Office Supplies, Napa Auto Parts, Ace Commercial, and Cupid's Restaurant. Other sponsors included Bank of the FSM, LP Gas, 7 Star Restaurant, and FSM Telecom.

After their arrival and the return of their EPIRB units, each boat that entered received a case of beer, and t-shirts for each angler aboard.

The weigh in was held at Mangrove Bay, and on the last afternoon of the tournament there was a barbecue.

Volunteers sold hot dogs, the proceeds of which go to the Pohnpei Public Library.

The club wants to thank Mangrove Bay for hosting the weigh in and after tournament celebrations. They also want to thank the many volunteers including "Bill, Paul, Tina, Praise, Uta, Cel, and all of Kumer's guys."

We, the family of the late Captain Yoshino S. Weilbacher would like to express our sincere gratitude for all the support, comfort and prayers during our time of great loss. He will truly be missed by all of us as we await his resurrection right here on a paradise earth.



John 5: 28, 29

Thank you very much, Kulo Ma Lulap, Kamagar, Kalahngan, Kilisou Chapur

...Congress

Continued from front page

3. Senator Joseph J. Urusemal, Committee on Education;
4. Senator Wesley W. Simina, Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations;
5. Senator Yosiwo P. George, Committee on External Affairs.
6. Senator Peter M. Christian, Committee on Transportation and Communications; and
7. Senator Tony H. Otto, Committee on Health and Social Affairs.

Chief Justice of the FSM Supreme Court Martin G. Yinug administered the Oath of Office to Members of the 18th FSM Congress in front of a chamber crowded with the State and National leadership which included Governor John Ehsa of the State of Pohnpei and traditional leader - Nahmwarki of Sokes, the Honorable Herculano Kohler.

In addition, Senior Pastor and the first

Speaker of the FSM Congress, Reverend Bethwel Henry offered the invocation for the occasion.

The National Anthem was beautifully sung by the Panuelo Trio: Ms. Jenna Deena on vocals accompanied by Alex and Michael on instruments. They are the children of Senator David W. Panuelo. Those who were not in the Congress Chamber this morning were able to tune in to the local radio stations for the day's proceedings via a live-broadcast through the FSM Telecommunications Corporation.

The First Regular Session of the 18th FSM Congress is expected to last for 20-days, unless shortened or extended by resolution. Pursuant to the FSM Constitution, a session of Congress is a two-year cycle therefore the 18th Congress will be from May 11, 2013 through May 10, 2015.

Following the formalities and run through of the Order of Business, the first session of the 18th FSM Congress recessed until Monday – May 13, 2013 at 10am in the morning.



CALL FOR PROJECT CONCEPT PAPERS GEF-SGP (FSM) FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS 2013

The Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF-SGP) is accepting **Project Concept Papers** requesting grant funding for community projects that meet the relevant Country Programme Strategy and addresses at least one of the following

Environment Focal Areas:

- a) biodiversity conservation and sustainable use,
- b) climate change mitigation and adaptation,
- c) protection of international waters,
- d) prevention of land degradation/sustainable land management, and
- e) elimination of persistent organic pollutant (POPs).

Eligible Recipients:

- a) *Any non-government organization, community-based organization/group, or community in the FSM that is chartered OR if not chartered, have evidence of legitimacy.*

Grants:

- A. Full Grants are up to US\$50,000 (average \$20,000) for projects of 1-3 years duration (preferably 2 years).
- B. Planning Grants - proponents may apply for a grant of up to US\$2,000 to use in assisting them to develop a full project proposal. This Planning Grant is subject to approval of Concept Papers.

How to Apply:

1. Contact the Programme Assistant (see address below) to obtain a Project Concept Format, the general criteria, and other relevant documents.
2. Fill out the 3-page Project Concept Paper and submit to the Programme Assistant anytime.
3. If Project Concept Paper is approved, Proponent is then asked to submit a full Proposal.
4. We highly encourage all concept proposals to be submitted electronically as much as possible per concept format.

Project Concept Paper Submission:

Project Proponents can submit Project Concept Papers **AT ANY TIME**. Reviews of Concepts are usually done quarterly but can be more frequent depending on number of Concepts received. Project Concept Papers must be submitted WITH ALL ATTACHMENTS to the appropriate contact below before they can be reviewed.

If you have questions, please contact the following:

Ms. Jo Lynne Gallen
P. O Box 2466
2nd Floor, Kevin Pelep Bldg.
Kaseleliha Street
Kolonias, Pohnpei FM 96941
Telephone Number: 691.320.4192
Fax Number: 691.320.1276
E-Mail: jolynneg@unops.org

You may also copy Patterson K. Shed, email: pattersons@unops.org, phone: 691.320.4192

“We shall require a substantially new manner of thinking if mankind is to survive.”

~ Albert Einstein

The National Conference of Student Leadership (NCSL)

This year the University of Guam (UOG) Pohnpei Student Organization (PSO) has participated in the National Conference of Student Leadership (NCSL) in Boston, Massachusetts. The conference began on April 04th-07th, 2013. Amongst the four participants from UOG was Mr. Norwick Waltu. He is the current President for PSO and has been working diligently to enhance his leadership skills to help PSO become better within the UOG community. He is currently pursuing his Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration with an emphasis in Hospitality and International Tourism Management.



the first student organizations at UOG to participate in such event. This is a milestone for our organization to have someone represented and become a certified student leader. We want to maintain our commitment to our families and the people of the Pohnpei as well as FSM, that we want to lead and live as students of characters and integrity. Our characters and actions speak more than words to our fellow youths and we want to show positive role models as well.

During the NCSL, student leaders were able to:

- Meet and interact with other student leaders from other universities
- Partake in breakout sessions that will encourage interaction and discussion around topics related to leadership and organizational management
- Develop leadership skills

Since UOG became a member of NCSL in 2005, PSO has become one of

PSO was founded in early 1970s and has been an active member of the UOG student Organizations since. The executive officers are: President is Norwick Waltu, VP Orlando Torres, Secretary Merna Keller and Treasurer Rothstein Remengesau. Faculty Advisors are: Dr. Richard Colfax and Dr. Marilyn Salas. PSO has over thirty members and have continuously increasing has more students are enrolling from Pohnpei and FSM. Aside from Norwick, Rothstein was also a certified student leader at the NCSL held last year in Orlando Disney World, sponsored by the UOG KUPRE Program. He works as a tutor under KUPRE and hope to graduate with his Bachelors in Criminal Justice this May. "All members of our organization have worked so hard to

U.S. government provides assistance to drought victims in the Republic of the Marshall Islands

International Organization for Migration

drought related impact assessment.

U.S. Ambassador Thomas Armbruster announced the U.S. Government's \$100,000 assistance to the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) following the government's declaration of a State of Disaster for the Northern Marshall Islands due to severe drought.

More than 5,700 people living in the northern atolls and islands of the Republic of the Marshall Islands have had their health and agricultural livelihoods jeopardized by unusually low levels of rain which have persisted since February.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), is providing initial drought relief commodities for the affected areas and assistance for

USAID is in the process of deploying 13 solar powered mobile reverse osmosis machines which are capable of producing

360 gallons of water per day. The water created by these machines will be used for emergency relief on the worst affected atolls and will be integrated into a longer-term USAID strategy to ensure water security and disaster resilience for the region. USAID is also deploying agricultural experts to address emerging food security concerns.

USAID and IOM have been sending relief supplies for over 4,200 beneficiaries in the worst affected areas, including 1,222 five-gallon "jerry cans", and 574 hygiene kits. On May 8th, the MS Jebro of the MIMRA fleet left Majuro for Mejit with 125 cases of 500ml bottles donated by the RMI Government as well as 100 USAID/IOM jerry cans. Another vessel, the Aemann, departed with relief supplies for 253 households on Wotho, Lae, Ujae, and Namu on 11th May.



RMI Drought: UNICEF calls for attention to health and hygiene needs

UNICEF

13 May 2013

SUVA – With thousands of people in the north of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) experiencing severe drought conditions, it is essential that access to clean and safe drinking water, proper sanitation and nutritious food is provided immediately. Initial assessments report an increase in diarrhea and other infections among children, underscoring the need for the emergency response to include attention to health and hygiene.

UNICEF is working closely with the Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT) partners, particularly through the Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) cluster, to provide

support to the RMI government. Ongoing relief efforts, coordinated by the RMI government include the provision of water and food rations to affected communities and increase the capacity of desalination units mobilized to the islands.

"It is essential to work to prevent the outbreak of diarrhea and other infections which can be fatal to young children," said UNICEF's Chief of Policy and Advocacy, Ms. Samantha Cocco-Klein. "Without clean water to drink, wash and prepare food with, infections can easily spread. The emergency response should consider how water is purified, stored and used, and continuously remind affected families of the need to keep children safe."

To help prevent illness, UNICEF has shared radio messages developed for the 2011 drought in Tuvalu. Messages include washing hands, boiling all drinking water, continuing to exclusively breastfeed infants under six months old and not eating spoiled food. Emergency water and sanitation (WASH) and health supplies such as hygiene kits, water quality testing kits and oral rehydration salts (ORS) have been offered to government counterparts in RMI.

Nutrition for children is also a concern. Ms. Cocco-Klein said "providing mothers of infants the support to breastfeed is the simplest and best way we can protect our youngest children, particularly when hygiene and water is a challenge."

UNICEF is advising that food supplied to families in need should contain a balance of protein as well as starchy basics such as noodles, rice and biscuits. Families should be encouraged to use any local food that is still available, and sea foods (seaweed, shell fish & fish) to their diet. Mothers of infants are encouraged to continue to exclusively breastfeed their newborn children.

Following the persistent low rainfall, the government of Marshall Islands declared a state of emergency for the northern islands and atolls last month. A three-member United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team has been deployed to RMI to assist with response coordination, assessments and information management for an initial two week period.

Donated dictionaries helping college bound Chuukese

Habele Outer Island Education Fund

(Weno, Chuuk) Students attending Chuuk High School have sent their thanks to Habele for donating English language dictionaries. The US-based charity provided the texts when approached by Vice Principal Jason Reiong.

Reiong wrote to Habele in late 2012, explaining: "I read about your organization in the Kaselehlie Press and I was very happy with what your organization has been doing for all the schools across Micronesia. I am writing to ask if your charity could help our students at CHS with some dictionaries, such as those you've provided to students in Yap." The US based charity was happy to respond to the request.

Over the last several months, Habele volunteers and their partners obtained the dictionaries and sent them to Chuuk. The cost of postage and processing was funded by the European based electronic payments firm "Yapital." On his end, Reiong navigated the donated boxes through customs, the post office and the school system's own bureaucracy. He explains that the timing of the arrival allowed the dictionaries to be used by students preparing for their state and district achievement tests.

"Since the students started using the dictionaries -both in the class and at their homes in the evenings- we've seen the scores on the local assessment increase," Vice Principal Reiong explained in a gracious letter to Habele volunteers. "The higher scores, and the rise in our College of Micronesia (COM) admission rate are possible because of the thoughtful contributions from people like you."

"That is a humbling claim," insisted Alex Sidles, a Habele Director who formerly served as a teacher on Unanu, in the Namonweito Atoll. "I think the real credit goes to the hard working educators and pupils in Weno who've made the most of the dictionaries. We happy to have helped them do just that."



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SPC and Pacific Disability Forum join forces in the Pacific Region



Secretariat of the Pacific Community

14 May 2013

Nadi, Fiji – The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Pacific Disability Forum (PDF) signed a memorandum of understanding on 14 May 2013.

The four-year agreement will strengthen links between SPC and PDF and help build new, proactive and complementary approaches to disability issues in the region.

In particular, the MOU will ensure better coordination between two regional organisations that each have their own areas of expertise and extensive networks and partnerships.

With the mobilisation of joint resources, the agreement will facilitate cross-cutting research in several areas that could benefit people with disabilities, and collection of accurate data. This collaborative process, combining two separate views and strategies, will also highlight gaps in addressing the needs of people with disabilities.

Dr Jimmie Rodgers, SPC Director-General, acknowledged that the partnership with PDF will be important in helping SPC deliver technical programmes that are disability inclusive. He said that as the lead technical agency for Pacific development in many areas, SPC must ensure that its services reach everyone.

Mr Setareki S. Macanawai, Chief Executive Officer of the Pacific Disability Forum, welcomed the timely partnership with SPC and thanked Dr Rodgers for his leadership, vision and commitment to the initiative. He said that SPC is a key partner for promoting, sustaining and advancing disability inclusive development in the Pacific and noted the importance of ensuring that the voices of people with disabilities, along with their representative organisations, are heard and counted.

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Closing Date:
June 15, 2013

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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 June 15, 2013.

Crossword - Food...Oooh, Food!

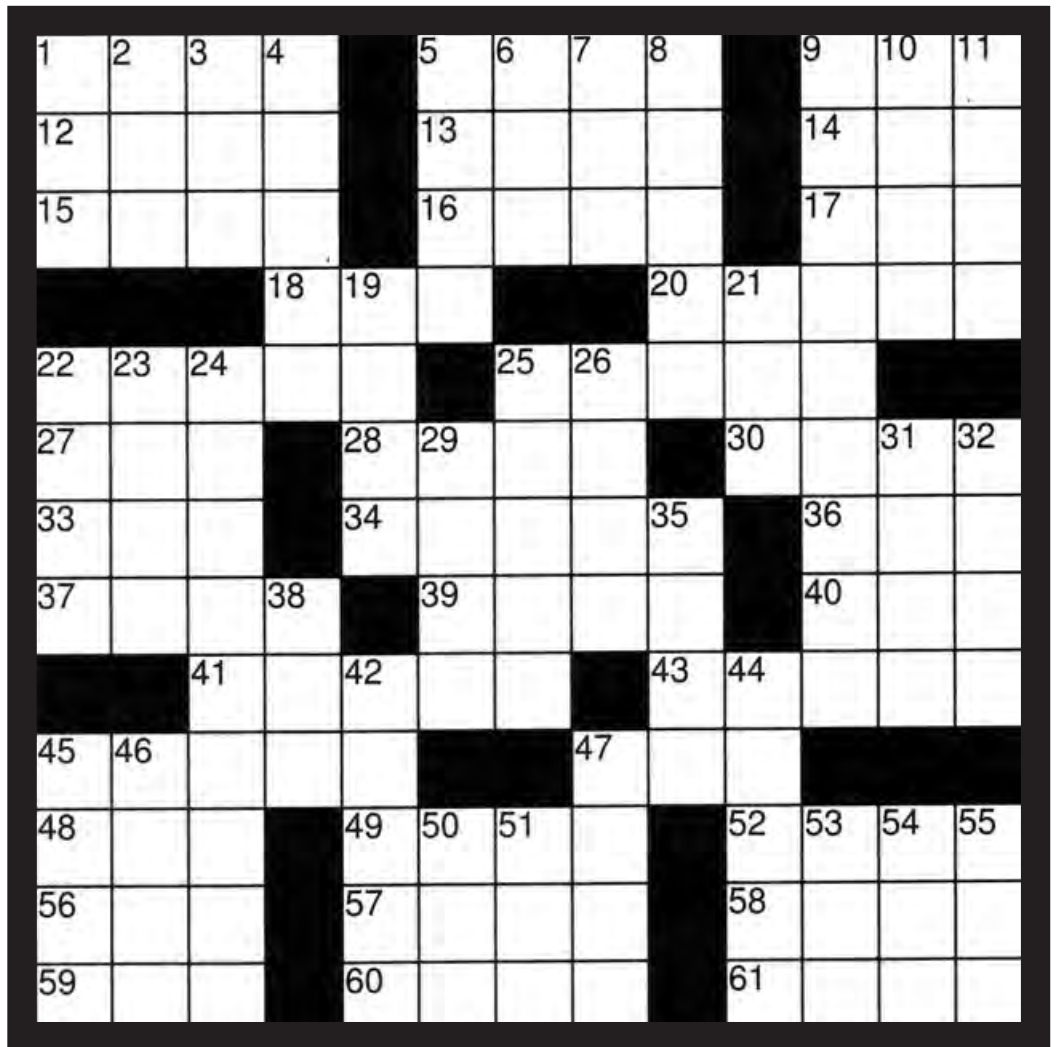
ACROSS

- 1. Dutch cheese
- 5. Brewer's yeast
- 9. Absorb, like gravy
- 12. Part of IPA
- 13. Recipe words
- 14. Another part of IPA
- 15. Italian cooking style?
- 16. Broil
- 17. Food school, for short
- 18. Recipe abbr.
- 20. Hungry-Man rival
- 22. Soy sauce
- 25. Red wine also called Shiraz
- 27. Way more than 18 Across
- 28. ___ Moco (a burger with a fried egg, rice, and brown gravy)
- 30. Spirit sometimes used in tapenade
- 33. Sushi tuna, often
- 34. Dos Equis, for one
- 36. Strong Brazilian coffee
- 37. Jicama or horseradish
- 39. ___ trout
- 40. Place often having a quaint restaurant
- 41. Frequent detail for Chinese food
- 43. Stovetop
- 45. Epicure's pride
- 47. Where to skim from
- 48. Sushi squid
- 49. A lubricating liquid
- 52. ___ apple

- 56. Sushi fish
- 57. Their tails are used in soup
- 58. Common fruit shape
- 59. Tea ___
- 60. More than merely dip
- 61. Keg tapper

DOWN

- 1. Farm spray watchdog
- 2. Indian legume or dish
- 3. ___ purpose flour
- 4. Like some beans
- 5. Food fish
- 6. Fruity drink
- 7. Advised quantities, for short
- 8. Seder spice
- 9. Artificial sweetener beverage
- 10. Aglio e ___
- 11. Fruit shaped like a light bulb
- 19. The "meat" of onion or garlic
- 21. ___ prik (hot sauce)
- 22. ___ fruit
- 23. Hostess product
- 24. Seasoning from a shaker
- 25. One without much meat
- 26. ___ Imperial apple
- 29. Seasons a pan, perhaps



- 31. Flan mold
- 32. Ice cream holder
- 35. UK candy bar
- 38. A "short shot" of a beverage
- 42. Red Bordeaux wine
- 44. Chef's garb
- 45. Bow ___ (farfalle)
- 46. Caribbean fruit resembling a

- peach
- 47. Loosely cover meat
- 50. Kitchen gadget
- 51. Black-eyed or goober ___
- 53. Caviar, for instance
- 54. ___ Tai (drink)
- 55. Shape for some kitchens

K Press Puzzle Pleasure

Best to Express

If you can finish this puzzle quickly, you can **DECLARE** yourself a master word search solver. Each word below refers to a mode or manner of expression. We won't take up any more of your time with our **BANTER**; we'll just let you get right to the solving

- | | | | | |
|----------|---------|--------|-----------|-------|
| AFFECT | CHORUS | GREET | PROMISE | TELL |
| ANNOUNCE | DECLARE | HERALD | QUIP | UTTER |
| ASSERT | DELIVER | INDITE | QUOTE | VOICE |
| BABBLE | DEMAND | INSIST | REFER | WARN |
| BANTER | DENY | INVOKE | REITERATE | YARN |
| BECKON | DICTATE | JIVE | SAY | |
| BID | ECHO | MIMIC | SNEER | |
| BLURT | EVOKE | NOTE | SPEAK | |
| BROACH | EXCUSE | ORATE | SWEAR | |
| CHAT | FIB | PAGE | TALK | |



Engaging technology: Using tablet computers for teaching English and reading

“Engaging Technology: Using Tablet Computers for Teaching English & Reading,” To improve reading and English proficiency through workshops and the use of iPads among 8th grade students and teachers in 5 adopted schools throughout Pohnpei. The activity is also instrumental in introducing and engaging students in the latest reading proficiency technology. The project is executed by MAHI International.



FSM identifies need for more north-south Pacific connections

Pacific Island Forum Secretariat

May 15, 2013

At their meetings with the Pacific Plan Review team in Pohnpei last week, national leaders and government officials from the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) highlighted the challenges of forging regional cooperation amongst small states with varying historic relationships and geographic spread.

Vice President Alik welcomed the Pacific Plan Review, which coincides with FSM's own strategic planning and policy development following recent elections. He re-affirmed FSM's commitment to regional cooperation, noting that "cooperation is necessary for promoting development efforts within countries and for voicing the Pacific's concerns in international arena on such issues as climate change".

Secretary of Foreign Affairs, the Honourable Lorin S. Robert, called for regional approaches that can reach out to the small island members. He suggested that the recent appointment of a Pacific Plan Desk Officer in FSM would help bring a much needed

connection to the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and the broader region's work under the Pacific Plan.

"Traditionally, our closest ties have been with the United States" he explained. "But to truly benefit from Pacific regionalism, we will need better links to Pacific islands in the south, and greater ownership of initiatives such as the Pacific Plan".

The Pacific Plan Review team, led in their Pohnpei consultations by former FSM Vice-President Mr. Redley Killion, sympathised with the difficulty of bridging the north-south divide in a physical sense - their air travels to consult with all Forum Member countries and Associate Members have taken them on a circuitous route across the region, made longer by infrequent air connections.

The team also noted the challenges of ensuring mobility across the Pacific in terms of educational qualifications and workforce skills. "The refreshed Pacific Plan will need to consider whether these difficulties can be overcome through regional action", concluded Mr Redley Killion.

New Pacific Plan Desk Officer appointed in FSM

Pacific Island Forum Secretariat

The new Pacific Plan Desk Officer has had a busy start in his post in the Federated States of Micronesia. Mr McEnroe Ardos was appointed to the Desk Officer position on May 1st under a joint agreement between the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia.

In his first few weeks on the job, Mr Ardos has been assisting in the organisation of consultations for the Pacific Plan Review team - including meetings with representatives of the national and state governments, regional organisations, and non-governmental groups.

"The Pacific Plan Review meetings have been an excellent learning experience for me", he said. "It is good to understand what the Pacific Plan means for different stakeholders".

Mr Ardos is officially employed under a contract with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, but is placed in the Federated States of Micronesia's Department of Foreign Affairs, and logistically supported in-country by the Government.

Secretary of Foreign Affairs, the Honourable Lorin S. Robert, has applauded the appointment of the Desk Officer. "This position will help strengthen links to the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and the broader region's work under the Pacific Plan", he said.

"We are looking forward to working with Mr Ardos over the course of his contract", responded Forum Secretariat Deputy Secretary General Feleti Teo.

"We welcome his placement within the Federated States of Micronesia Government, which will further strengthen our relationship with, and delivery of assistance to, their country".

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

The Community Bulletin is a free message board exclusive to announcements. To post your announcements to The Kaselehlie Press:

P. O. Box 2222
Pohnpei, FM 96941

phone to: (691) 320-6547
email to: kpress@mail.fm

- For information on Alcoholics Anonymous call 924-9197 or email lonestarihelipters@yahoo.com
- 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 320-4015.
- 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

The stamp of Dr Lois Englberger of Island Food Community of Pohnpei

By April Turner

Island Food Community of Pohnpei

Dr Lois Englberger, Island Food Community's cherished founder, was honored earlier this month with the issuance of a commemorative stamp that shows her dedication to the FSM. Until she passed away in September 2011, Dr Lois had worked tirelessly to make her stamp on Pohnpei's health crisis. With her analysis of the nutrient content of local foods on hand, she promoted the values and benefits of island foods such as yellow-fleshed bananas, giant swamp taro, pandanus and seeded breadfruit to reduce the incidences of diabetes, cancers, heart disease and Vitamin A deficiencies. This stamp recognizes her work analyzing and promoting these local island foods, displaying her surrounded by photos of the Pohnpeian delicacies.

Senator David Panuelo spoke of Dr. Englberger's passion and thanked her for bringing the "eyes of the world to Micronesia and the eyes of FSM citizens back to their backyard" through her regional and international promotion of local foods. The Let's Go Local campaign "reminds us not to lose sight of what is

on our doorstep", said Senator Panuelo, whilst IFCP Board Member Rainer Jimmy urged us to take the lead in thinking global and acting local, "Dr Lois did her part. We have ours to do. If we fail, we will be doing a great injustice to her. Let's Go Local and follow in her footsteps to make a difference".

Step 1: Plant some local foods IFCP offers banana starters for free

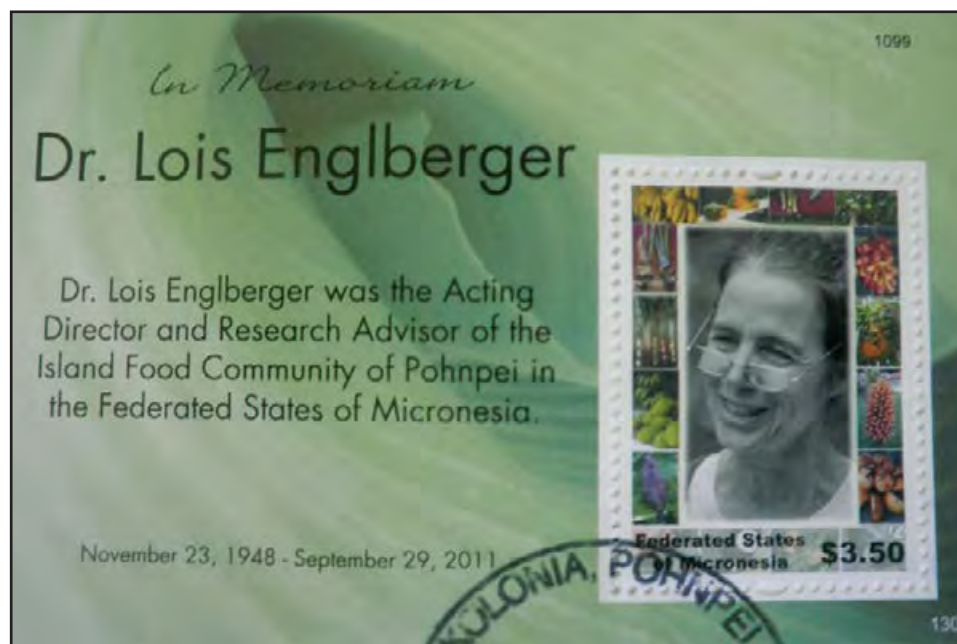
Step 2: Add some local food to your diet IFCP offers recipes for free

Snack on papaya, bananas, pandanus. Swap fish for chicken. Eat bananas instead of donuts

Step 3: Maintain & harvest your island foods This gives you some exercise

Step 4: Be proud of our Micronesian culture & foods. Enjoy!

Stamps can be purchased at the Postal Office. Special thanks to the Australian Embassy, US Embassy, Pohnpei State Government Subsidy, Children's Healthy Living Program (a USDA grant to University of Hawaii) and Australian Volunteers International (AVI) for their funding support.



The stamp dedicated to Dr Lois Englberger

"Youth to Youth" environmental education

By April Turner

Island Food Community of Pohnpei

On Thursday 9th May, 6th grade students from seven selected schools across Pohnpei shared their visions for an environmentally sound island using songs, presentations, drawings and humorous skits. These proud performances were the culmination of a school year's worth of environmental lessons at schools by the leading environmental organizations and governmental departments of the on-going Youth to Youth Environmental Education Awareness Program organized and lead by the Conservation Society of Pohnpei.

Island Food Community of Pohnpei (IFCP) has been teaching environmental awareness within the Let's Go Local campaign and nutrition education program at Kolonia Elementary as part of the Youth to Youth partnership. Students planted bananas on the premises and learnt about the importance of growing and eating local island foods for the CHEEF (Culture, Health, Environment, Economy and Food security) benefits. Local food helps protect the environment through the reduction of waste, reduced greenhouse gases, negligible 'food miles', soil benefits and biodiversity.

When you grow or buy fresh local food there is no plastic packaging that takes hundreds of years to decompose leaching toxins that harm animals, humans and the environment. They do not need to be transported large distances and kept cool

using excessive amounts of energy, or 'food miles'. By maintaining our lush food forests we also act on climate change by cleaning the air and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The soil is protected by our trees and plants and thrives in an organic environment without the widespread use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides that harm our waters, our health and our soils. These synthetic pesticides are linked to a range of health problems, including obesity, and are alarmingly ranked among the top 3 cancer risks. By growing and eating local foods we can contribute immensely to a healthy environment locally and globally.

When you look at just a few of the environmental benefits of going local, and then consider all the other CHEEF advantages, you can understand how the students of Kolonia Elementary became passionate sharers of this knowledge with song and a presentation at the Youth to Youth Environmental Fair. Now it is up to parents and society to support and encourage them to be the generation that protects our amazing environment by going local.

Many thanks to our Youth to Youth partners: Conservation Society of Pohnpei (CSP), Department of Education, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NCRS), Division of Fish and Wildlife, Environmental Protection Agency, International Organization for Migration (IOM), and especially the students and teachers of Kolonia Elementary school.



Kolonia Elementary present CHEEF benefits

Fire trucks go down in Kosrae—United Airlines doesn't

By Bill Jaynes

The Kaselehlie Press

May 16, 2013

Pohnpei, FSM—United Airlines did not land at the Kosrae airport on the sixth of May. Travelers bound for Kosrae and travelers in Kosrae bound for other destinations were left to their own devices because the two Airport Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) fire trucks were out of commission.

The problem wasn't the fault of a United Airlines mechanical problem, in which case ticketed passengers might have been compensated for their out of pocket expenses.

Reliable sources say that one of the airport's two strikers, the large and expensive fire trucks that the FAA gave to each FSM airport, recently suffered a mechanical problem that made it inoperable. Before Monday's scheduled flight, the second striker also went down with a similar problem. Those sources said that Kosrae Airport Manager Wadel

Canary sent notice by email that the airport would be closed indefinitely.

The logistics of getting parts to the island when United Airlines couldn't land there due to FAA rules requiring fire fighting abilities were daunting, but word came yesterday that the Kosrae airport would be ready to receive the May 17 flight.

"Of course there is a flight tomorrow," Canary said by phone this afternoon.

He would neither expound on any of the details that led to Monday's flight cancellation nor on how the mechanical problem with the airport's fire trucks was handled. "We fixed it," he exclaimed in an agitated manner.

It was all that he had to say.



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