

The *This bi-weekly publication is \$1.00* KASELEHLIE PRESS

PO Box 2222 Kolonia, Pohnpei, FM 96941 Phone 691-320-6547 FSMKpress@yahoo.com www.kpress.info

Health officials investigating Murillo, Chuuk deaths

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

October 27, 2010

Murillo, Chuuk, FSM—Health officials were dispatched to Chuuk last week to investigate an outbreak of an unidentified illness that killed seven residents of the small island of Murillo including a four year old boy. Scores of other Murillo residents also became ill with symptoms that included a sore throat, headache, vomiting and fever.

Murillo, an island located a six hour boat ride north of Weno, Chuuk's capital, is isolated. There is no cell phone or Internet service on the island. Communications are handled by radio. Because of the island's isolation details of the tragedy

were sketchy at press time. No "official" spokesperson from the FSM Department of Health was available for comment.



FSM Health officials have not conclusively determined whether or not consumption of the meat of a Hawksbill Turtle (pictured above) was the determining factor in Murillo deaths and illnesses

An "unofficial" spokesperson at the FSM Department of Health said that according to email exchanges between the Department of Health and Chuuk State officials, upwards of 80 people ate the meat of a hawksbill turtle. Of those, approximately 80% became sick. Seven of them died.

An unconfirmed source said that even some dogs that fed on leftovers became sick and died.

According to Judy Mahan, the Public Information Officer for the Executive Branch of the FSM, health officials are hesitant to jump to any conclusions of any kind. She said that she had been told that the results

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US Coast Guard Cutter Rush stops in Pohnpei for service and R and R

Embassy of the United States of America

On October 26-28, the United States Coast Guard (USCG) Cutter Rush visited Pohnpei. The three-day visit included courtesy calls on F.S.M. National Government officials as well as various community outreach initiatives. Rush Commanding Officer Captain James L. McCauley oversees the Honolulu-based crew of approximately 170.

On Tuesday morning, Captain McCauley and U.S. Embassy Chargé d' Affaires Lori Dando called upon F.S.M. Department of Foreign Affairs Secretary Lorin Robert in Palikir. They then visited the Micronesia Transnational Crime Unit (TCU), where they were briefed by Officer in Charge Captain Johnny Santos. TCU receives support from the U.S. Pacific Command Joint Interagency Task Force.

Captain McCauley and Chargé Dando concluded their meetings at the F.S.M. Maritime Wing in Dekehtik, Nett, where they toured the F.S.M. Patrol Boats.

In addition to the government consultations, members of the Rush crew participated in community service projects. The activities in-



cluded painting an interior walkway of Pohnpei State Hospital and donating boxes of light weight clothing to the Catholic community of Pohnpei. The clothing items were provided by twenty crew members and their families.

That evening, the USCG and the U.S. Embassy co-hosted a reception on board the Rush. During her remarks, Chargé Dando thanked the Coast Guard for its tireless efforts to support maritime surveillance in the region. She also expressed appreciation to those who con-

tributed to the community services events, calling their efforts a reminder "that the United States of America and the Federated States of Micronesia enjoy a profound relationship, one that goes far beyond formal treaty commitments... The citizens of our two nations share a commitment to the values of democracy, the rule of law, and respect for human rights."

Chargé Dando also noted the presence of Mr.

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Congress standing committee ups the ante for China loan

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

Palikir, Pohnpei, FSM—Congress is being very cautious as it considers a bill (16-124) that would authorize President Mori to negotiate a concessional soft loan agreement with the Government of the People's Republic of China (PRC). The bill as presented would authorize the President to borrow as much as \$22 million from the PRC which would then be used to rehabilitate or to create onshore fisheries operations in each of the FSM's four states in order for the FSM to capture more of the revenue generated in its waters through fishing activities.

The Resources and Development Committee, chaired by Chuuk's Senator Roger Mori, recommended amendments to the bill which would authorize the President to negotiate an agreement for as much as \$11 million more for a total of \$33 million on a 20 year term.

By way of comparison, \$33 million is just over \$6 million short of what Congress approved during its last session as the entire budget for the National Government this year.

The additional \$11 million would be "on-loaned" by the National Government to the States for infrastructure improvements that State representatives say are needed in order to insure the success of the rehabilitation of the port facilities and onshore fisheries activities. The money would be available for draw down by the States for a three year period if R&D's recommended amendments are adopted by Congress and the bill is passed.

R&D's proposed amendments were not officially introduced during the session that ended in early October and Congress has not yet voted to adopt any of those

amendments.

During the hearing on the bill that was held in Yap on July 6, James Movick, consultant for the FSM's Department of Resources and Development told witnesses that the proposed loan figure of \$22 million only covers the implementation of the project.

At least according to "John Q Public" the proposed project or projects still have not been completely defined. But others both inside and outside of the FSM are apparently quite aware of what the project entails. Movick explained during the Yap hearing that "With the due diligent work of the Forum Fisheries Agency and others, \$22 million is the figure that is considered to be viable for the project and does not include the other components the states want."

The R&D report says that improvements are needed in each of the States because the current state infrastructure is unable to handle the increased usage resulting from the overall "Luen Thai project."

That title, coined by the R&D Committee might be a misnomer.

Marion Henry, Secretary of the Department of Resources and Development, and James Movick indicated during an interview in August of this year that the proposed loan didn't carry with it the encumbrance that the chosen contractor must be a Chinese company.

However, an extremely highly placed official of the FSM National Government said that his understanding was that Luen Thai, since it is not considered to be a Chinese contractor does not qualify to operate a project under the proposed concessional loan offer from the PRC. He said that he understood that in order to qualify, Luen Thai took up a partnership with an-

other corporation that does qualify as a Chinese contractor.

"Luen Thai has been an excellent corporate citizen of the FSM," he added.

In the final days of the most recent session of Congress, former FSM President, Senator Joseph Urusemal said of the R&D report, "The numbers don't add up."

The R&D report listed a total cost of State infrastructure needs to support the project at \$9,686,000, \$1,314,000 less than the R&D committee recommended that the National Government should borrow from the PRC for the infrastructure needs of the States in order to ensure the success of the projects being proposed in each State.

Specifically, the report says that Yap needs a new generator for additional power needs at a cost of one million dollars. Chuuk needs a new ferry boat dock to allow the contractor to use the State's existing dock for project purposes. Chuuk estimates that the new dock would cost four million dollars. The State of Pohnpei says it needs \$3,800,000 for wastewater treatment and additional transformers. The State of Kosrae says that it needs \$886,000 for a new generator to improve their power delivery capacity.

The listed needs of the States indicate that Government officials on nearly every level across the nation are at least basically aware of what projects the "Luen Thai Project," funded by an FSM-PRC concessionary loan package would entail but those projects are not at all defined or described by CB 16-124.

The R&D committee report was not very helpful along those lines either.

Apparently the proposed projects are in other documents that are not currently

available to the public as was true in the case of the proceedings that ended in the establishment of the Micronesia Petroleum Corporation.

Even if R&D's suggested amendments to 16-124 had already been adopted by Congress, the bill would still not contain any language about a previously mentioned "five year grace period," before repayment of the soft loan must begin. There were no specifics regarding how the loan money would be utilized other than that it would be used "for the rehabilitation of the shore-side fisheries infrastructure, processing infrastructure, and related infrastructure requirements in the four states pursuant to the Chinese Government Concessional Loan program generally that was offered to eligible Pacific Islands governments by the Government of the People's Republic of China in April, 2004."

The bill, including the amendments recommended by R&D simply gives power to the President to negotiate a loan package that would then be submitted to Congress for approval.

The bill instructs the President to include language in any loan contract between the two nations that details steps to be taken if it becomes apparent that the FSM cannot keep up with its loan obligation to the PRC, whether because of failure of the specific projects, project operator default, or if the FSM Government faces a situation of significant overall macro-economic duress.

It also instructs the President to "seek legal assurances regarding the utilization of state facilities." It also talks about lease payments for facilities built with National Government money under the plan belonging to the National Government so that it can make its payments for the loan

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The
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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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West Indian Ocean Partnership, learning from the Micronesia Challenge

FSM Information Services

*October 26, 2010
(SPREP)*

25 October Nagoya Japan - Nations comprising of the Western Indian Ocean are inspired by the small island countries' Micronesia Challenge initiative which seeks to effectively conserve 30 percent of near shores resources and 20 percent of terrestrial resources by 2020.

Signed by the leaders of the Marianas, Guam, Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, and Republic of the Marshall Islands, Micronesia Challenge seeks to Effectively Conserve 30% of Near Shore Resources and 20% of Terrestrial Resources by 2020.

Micronesia Challenge was first launched by 2006 by Palau which was immediately supported by the other nations and that the movement has served as an

inspiration for Caribbean countries to launch a similar challenge.

Seychelles' Permanent Representative to the United Nations HE Ambassador Ronald Jumeau during a side event says that the Micronesia Challenge is an initiative that served as an inspiration that the nations are adopting.

He states that the Western Indian Ocean nations are taking lessons from the Micronesian countries as to - "where we ought to go."

In 2005 then Palau President Tommy Remengesau Jr. committed his nation to preserving 30 percent of their near-shore marine resources and 20 percent of their terrestrial resources by 2020.

The initiative was then launched in 2006 and supported by the rest of the Micronesia region that agreed to match

the same commitment Palau made.

Joe Aitaro, Palau's Protected Areas Network coordinator was one of the speakers during the side event with representatives from the Western Indian Ocean countries in attendance.

"What they wanted to hear from us was the arrangement of the initiative and what the benefits are," Aitaro says.

He explains that one of the major points that need to be learned from the initiative is that it is a long term commitment. Aitaro says the effort has been successful due to the head of states commitment of seeing it through.

"The leaders might have changed but the commitment is still there," Aitaro notes.

He says that the current leaders in the Micronesian region are continually

meeting to ensure its success.

Each of the five jurisdictions in the Micronesia has endorsed the Micronesia Conservation Trust as a regional finance tool to ensure that the Challenge remains sustainable.

The Micronesia Challenge represents more than 5 percent of the Pacific Ocean and 61 percent of the world's coral species<<http://www.nature.org/join-anddonate/rescuereef/>>. It includes 66 threatened species, more than 1,300 species of reef fish, 85 species of birds and 1,400 species of plants - 200 of which are found only in Micronesia<<http://www.nature.org/wherework/asiapacific/micronesia/>>.

The five jurisdictions are well on their way in achieving the commitments.



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...China loan

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package.

At a public hearing in Palikir, Luen Thai representatives said that they are willing to enter into user agreements with and make payments to Yap, Pohnpei, and Kosrae for use of the new facilities. Those payments would provide those states streams of income that they could use for repayment from any loans they might take from the National Government.

In the case of Chuuk, the proposed ferry dock would not be used by the contractor and therefore would not generate revenue from the contractor for the project there.

The R&D committee pointed out that the bill does "include language requiring each of the States to provide a general guarantee to repay their loan and to provide a plan and commitment to pay their loan.

Forum Fisheries Agency representatives were asked at one of the Palikir R&D hearings whether the project is viable in light of past failed National Government projects. They testified that past failures were mainly due to lack of competent management. They said "this project is different because experienced Luen Thai managers will be managing operations."

FFA witnesses were also asked why this loan was different than other unsuccessful loan projects in the past. They explained to the committee that while previously, payments to the FSM were dependent

upon the profitability of individual boats that won't be the case this time around. "Boats will pay fees for privileged access to our facilities; as long as there are enough boats, which Luen Thai guarantees, payments will be made sufficient to cover the loan payments."

Compared to the August interview with Henry and Movick, the idea of "fees for privileged access" to the FSM's facilities is new. They said then that the contractor that would manage the project would be required to meet the needs of fishing vessels on a "first come first served basis." They specifically denied any concept of "privileged access" to the facilities during that interview.

But then, since according to the report, "Luen Thai is contractually obligated to keep 120 boats in the FSM," and since the FSM's National Oceanic Resources Management Authority "has historically licensed between 100 and 150 boats per year" there would not be much room for other competing vessels in any event.

A NORMA official told the Kaselehlie Press that they issue approximately 200 fishing licenses per year.

The R&D Committee report said that by the time the hearings were completed, each of the States had indicated their support for the bill.

At the Palikir hearings "the most important concern for many members was the lack of security provided to the National Government by the States to secure repayment. All loan funded infrastructure will be owned by the States while the National Government is the sole borrower. Therefore, the potential exists for the States to benefit directly from the facilities, while the National Government pays for them."

This seems to be the principal reason for the prudence of FSM Congress members. They don't want the National Government to be left "holding the bag." The R&D committee suggested amendments that would give oversight and approval authority over subsidiary agreements rather than just over the threshold authorization of the loan. Final approval of the terms of the loan, assuming that 16-124 is passed would come from Congress.

The bill had been assigned to the Committee on R&D and also to the Committee on External Affairs chaired by Senator Paliknoa Welly of Kosrae. That committee held no hearings on the bill until after the regular Congress session had already adjourned.

Pohnpei's Senator Peter Christian made a motion to remove the bill from the committee and vote on it over the objections of Senator Welly. Though his committee had apparently made no moves toward holding a hearing on the proposed bill he said that he felt it was important that his committee have input. Ultimately the bill was deferred to the next session of Congress.

JICA donates over USD \$500,000 in Materials to the FSM Government for the MS Caroline Voyager

FSM Information Services

Palikir, Pohnpei October 22, 2010

On October 21, 2010, Secretary Francis Itimai, of the Department of Transportation, Communication and Infrastructure; and Naoyoshi Sasaki, Resident Representative of the JICA Micronesia Office, executed an agreement pursuant to which the Government of Japan through Japan International Cooperation Agency will purchase and donate over \$500,000 worth of materials for the MS Caroline Voyager.

Sasaki is the Team Leader for the "Follow-Up Cooperation Study Team" sent by JICA to Micronesia, to conduct a field survey of the MS Caroline Voyager. The team arrived in Pohnpei on October 12, and after working hard on their survey in close collaboration with the Assistant Secretary of the Division of Marine Transportation and his staff, as well as the officers and crew of the MS Caroline Voyager, will be returning to Japan on October 25. Following their field survey of the vessel, the JICA team was able to collect all the necessary information to establish a precise list of the needed equipment and materials for the MS Caroline Voyager.

The priority list established by the JICA Team includes, amongst other things: deck fittings, anchors and mooring lines, first aid kits and life jackets, a radar, a GPS system, awnings, rocket signals and flares, engine parts, as well as numerous tools.

On behalf of the FSM government, Itimai thanked Sasaki for JICA's tremendous assistance and expressed his solace in knowing that moving forward, the MS Caroline Voyager will boast sea-worthiness beyond reproach. He also expressed his appreciation for the efforts made by JICA to approve his Department's request of assistance; a request which had been channeling through the regular diplomatic channels for quite some time.

"The result of JICA's donation will tremendously assist in keeping the only Nationally operated vessel in seaworthy condition," said Itimai, "to provide the services direly needed by the outlying island populous in the states."

MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION

We, the family of the late
Pahpa Ioanis A. Ioanis



Would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to our families, relatives, friends, and everyone who tirelessly joined in the search effort for pahpa Ioanis. We extend also the same heartfelt sentiments to those who joined us daily at our family residence, on the dock, and aboard the FSS Micronesia for the memorial service. Your presence, generosity, support, prayers and expressions of condolences and love were a source of strength and courage for us throughout this extremely difficult time. We consider ourselves greatly blessed to have each and every one of you in our lives. May our Heavenly Father continue to bless and watch over each of you.

We would especially like to thank:

FSM National Government:

His Excellency Manny Mori,
President,
Federated States of Micronesia
Hon. Isaac V. Figir, Speaker,
16th Congress of the
Federated States of Micronesia
Honorable Members of the
16th FSM Congress
Secretary Makato Robert,
Department of Justice
Mr. Takasy Reim,
Chief of National Police
Captain and crew,
FSS Micronesia Staff,
FSM Congress

Church Family:

Church of Jesus Christ of
Latter-Day Saints: Kolonia Branch
Presidency and all auxiliaries,
Pohnpei District Presidency,
Members of the different Branches,
especially the members of the Relief
Society, Priesthood, Youth, and
Primary, whose support and love we
could not do without.

Pohnpei State Government:

Hon. John Ehsa,
Governor, Pohnpei State
Mr. Joseph Roby,
Chief of Police
Officer Sakies Lawrence &
all officers involved in the search
Pohnpei State Marine division
Pohnpei Port Authority,
and others

Private Individuals/families:

Speaker Isaac V. Figir
and Mary Figir
Senator Peter M. Christian
& family Wilbur & Senator
Magdalena Walter & family
Ioanis families, Ramon families,
Hadley family, Folau family,
Anson Family, Paul family,
Robert family, Solomon family,
relatives and friends, neighbors,
and all who supported and stood by us.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

...Coast Guard

Continued from front page

Okean Ehmes, the first F.S.M. citizen to graduate from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, as well as Ms. Mary Berman, whose daughter, Margaret Damarlane, is currently a freshman at the Academy.

In conclusion, Dando thanked all those in attendance, calling their participation in the event what "makes the U.S.-F.S.M. partnership a reality."

Previously, in April 2010, the USCG Cutters Sequoia and Assateague came to Pohnpei to participate in the third U.S.-F.S.M. Sea Guardian Exercise. Under Title Three of the Compact of Free Association, the U.S. Coast Guard provides assistance in the prosecution of Illegal, Unregulated, and Unreported (IUU) fishing and other transnational crime within the F.S.M.'s Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Additionally, a bi-lateral U.S.-F.S.M. Shiprider Agreement allows members of the F.S.M. National Police Maritime Wing to travel aboard U.S. ships and respond to illicit activity at sea.



Members of the USCGC Rush paint at the Pohnpei State Public Hospital in Nett October 26.



...Chuuk deaths

continued from front page

of the investigation would be available by Friday, October 29 at the earliest. Until then, the Department of Health does not want to cause undue alarm by releasing information before all of the facts are in, and scientific conclusions based on those facts have been reached.

If it was, as has been conjectured, the meat of a hawksbill turtle, an endangered species that killed seven people in Chuuk it would not be the first case of its kind.

"Phuket Wan" a publication from Phuket, Thailand reported in June of this year that three people from the southern sea gypsy village of Rawai had died from "food poi-

soning" as a result of eating the meat of a hawksbill turtle. One of those who died in that tragedy was an 11 month old boy who fed from the breast of a woman who ate the turtle. Another was a 60 year old woman.

Papua New Guinea's "Post Courier" reported in April of 2009 a case of several deaths on the island of Manus after turtle meat was eaten.

An article in the Pacific Family Health Journal says, "The Hawksbill turtle, *Eretmochelys imbricata*, is reported as a common cause of turtle meat poisoning in Indonesia, India and the Philippines" It says that the Hawksbill turtle has a wide distribution from the Pacific and Indian Oceans to the Atlantic Ocean and is the smallest of the marine turtles. The jaws of the turtle

are hooked and curved like a beak. On the head are four prefrontal shields while the shields of the upper shell strongly overlap. There are usually two claws on each limb.

Though the article says that there have been cases of food poisoning that resulted from eating the meat of other species of turtles none of those cases involved the specific list of symptoms that resulted from eating the meat of a Hawksbill turtle. Those symptoms included vomiting, dizziness, a burning sensation in the throat, headache, abdominal pain, and occasional diarrhea. After about two days the mucous membranes of the mouth and throat become swollen and swallowing is sometimes difficult. These symptoms are also often accompanied by nervous system symptoms including extreme drowsiness and in se-

vere cases, loss of consciousness.

Apparently it is the diet of the Hawksbill turtle that can be toxic to other organisms that might eat it, including to humans but it is not always so. The turtle eats certain varieties of sea sponges and other foods high in silica. They also eat jellyfish and the deadly Man of War. Not everyone who eats a hawksbill turtle gets sick and the author of the Pacific Family Health Journal article said that the reason that some of the species of turtle are toxic and others are not has never been thoroughly studied.

At press time Health Department officials had not yet released their final evaluation of what caused the deaths and illnesses in Murillo.

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The PALM (Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting) Ministerial Interim Meeting held in Tokyo, Japan

Embassy of Japan in the FSM

The Ministers from member countries and region of Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) got together at Tokyo in Japan, mid October, and reaffirmed that Japan and Pacific island countries, both as island nations, are important partners sharing the Pacific Ocean and that their relationships are deeply underpinned by historical bonds and a wide range of areas including fisheries and tourism. The Ministers also expressed their determination to further invigorate the process of Pacific Island Leaders Meeting (PALM) including Ministerial Interim Meeting in order to further strengthen relationships. PALM was the summit meeting established in 1997 for the promotion of the partnership between Japan and 16 member countries and regions of PIF and the 5th PALM was held at Hokkaido in Japan in 2009.

The PALM Ministerial Interim Meeting, as the first endeavor, was held in Tokyo on 16th October, 2010. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Seiji Maehara, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan and was attended by The Hon. Edward Nipake Natapei, Prime Minister of the Republic of Vanuatu (Chair of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF)), and ministerial level representatives including Deputy Prime Ministers and Foreign Ministers from 16 PIF member countries and regions, including Mr. Lorin Robert, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Federated States of Micronesia.

The Meeting discussed the follow-up of the outcomes of the Fifth Pacific Islands Leaders meeting (PALM 5) as well as preparation for PALM 6 which will be held in Okinawa in May 2012.

Japan has already provided assistance amounting to approximately 32.3 billion Yen (approx. \$390 mil-

lion)

Foreign Minister Maehara reported that Japan has already provided assistance amounting to approximately 32.3 billion yen out of 50 billion yen (approx. \$600 million) pledged at PALM 5 in the area of environment, climate change and human security such as health and education. This includes 6.8 billion yen (approx. \$82 million) worth of contribution to the PIF under the Pacific Environmental Community (PEC) fund. In the field of technical training cooperation, for the FSM, 5 people attended JICA group training courses for environment including climate change, 20 people attended JICA training courses for human security including education and health, and 72 people attended people-to-people exchange programs.

Pacific island countries expressed their appreciation for the assistance announced as the "Kan Commitment" committed by Prime Minister Naoto Kan at the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations. The Commitment includes the assistance of 5 billion US dollars in the field of health and 3.5 billion US dollars in the field of education over five years beginning in 2011. Furthermore, the Ministers agreed to cooperate in promoting the concept of human security.

Foreign Minister Maehara strengthened that Japan would like to assist the self-efforts of the Pacific Countries

The Japanese side expressed its continued commitment to assisting the efforts of Pacific island countries in their endeavor toward self-sustained socio-economic development in the spirit of equal partnership. Pacific island countries expressed their appreciation for Japan's continued assistance and

explained their efforts for the development of their countries and the importance of the Pacific Plan in steering regional development aspirations.

To Tackle Climate Change

In order to tackle climate change issues, the Japanese side emphasized the necessity of early adoption of a new, comprehensive legal document that establishes a fair and effective international framework in which all major economies participate. The Japanese side expressed that it would like to work closely with Pacific island countries in this regard. The Japanese side also explained that it has been steadily implementing fast-start financing, and that it will host the Aichi-Nagoya Ministerial Meeting of the REDD+ Partnership co-chaired by Japan and Papua New Guinea on 26th October. Pacific island countries expressed their support for Japan's efforts in this regard, and also emphasized the necessity for further assistance to those countries which are vulnerable to the impact of climate change.

Partnership in the International Arena

Both sides discussed issues including climate change, UN reform, freedom of navigation and democratization in Fiji. Pacific island countries especially agreed to enhance their cooperation in the area of climate change given that Pacific island countries are vulnerable to adverse effects of climate change.

Promotion of people-to-people exchange

The Japanese side highlighted the importance of the reform of the Security Council of the United Nations, which lies as one of the most important issues in the reform of global governance. In acknowledging the need for early reform of the Security Council, Pacific island countries reiterated their support for Japan's bid for permanent membership in the Council.

The Japanese side expressed that it would reinvigorate political-level visits from Japan to Pacific island countries to further strengthen relationships. Pacific island countries welcomed Japan's efforts to this end.

The Japanese side explained the progress on "Visit Pacific Forum" which was launched at PALM 5 and that Japan would explore ways to enhance people-to-people exchanges with Pacific island countries through tourism based on the proposal submitted by the Forum next March. Pacific island countries welcomed Japan's efforts to this end.

Pacific island countries welcomed such efforts by Japan and several representatives expressed their hope especially to reinvigorate political level visit and to further enhance the invitation programme.

In the bilateral meeting between Japan and the FSM, Ms. Kikuta met with Secretary Mr. Lorin Robert, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Federated States of Micronesia. Both Sides shared the recognition that it is important to invigorate further people-to-people exchange of young generation between Japan and the FSM, in order for the promotion of the future partnership between the two countries.

Issues to be discussed toward PALM 6 in 2012

Foreign Minister Maehara explained the following as priority issues for the next PALM;

- Reinvigorating political-level visits from Japan to Pacific island countries
- Continued assistance with a focus on the most aid effective areas
- Enhancing the invitation programme for young people from Pacific island countries aimed at further strengthening people-to-people exchanges from a medium-to-long-term perspective.
- Further cooperation in the area of climate change



SPC launches 'e-Pacific Island Countries' - an online portal for Pacific ICT information

Secretariat of the Pacific Community

27 October 2010 – Inaccessibility to readily available online information and communication technology (ICT) resources is not an issue for the Pacific Islands region anymore. The launch of 'e-Pacific Island Countries' (e-PIC) yesterday by SPC takes Pacific communities one step closer to ICT development with the availability of useful ICT information on this online portal.

The launch took place at the SPC-organised 40th meeting of the Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations (CRGA), which is being held in Noumea, New Caledonia from 25 – 29 October 2010.

'This is a timely initiative as it contributes to addressing the ICT data gaps that were identified by the review of the Pacific Plan Digital Strategy and further highlighted by the newly endorsed Framework for Action on ICT for Development in the Pacific. The portal also provides a platform for engaging the various ICT stakeholders to ensure ICT initiatives are relevant, sustainable and have a positive impact on the lives of Pacific people,' Dr Jimmie Rodgers, Director General of SPC, said.

Mr. Siaso Sovaleni, ICT Outreach Coordinator at SPC's Economic Development

Division who led the development of this important portal, gave a demonstration of its usefulness to the delegates at the CRGA meeting.

'Resources uploaded to the portal will be categorised based on the seven themes of the endorsed ICT framework ensuring its relevance to endorsed priorities in the framework. In addition, all the resources will be tagged, which will make it easier to find appropriate information and resources,' explained Mr Sovaleni.

The development of e-PIC has been possible with funding assistance from the European Union (EU) through the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP Group) under the ICT Access for the Poor project.

The portal is expected to generate a significant increase in the dissemination and exchange of relevant information and knowledge amongst regional and international ICT agencies and the Pacific Island governments and communities. The portal will have country profiles, downloadable documents, forum, register of ICT professionals and policy makers, photo and video gallery, and ICT vacancies. The documents on the portal will include policies, legal and regulatory documents, publications, news items, as

well as educational and research materials.

'e-PIC' has extended its scope to include resources for other projects such as the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Project on Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) for Inclusive Growth and Poverty Reduction.

The idea is to adopt an online 'one-stop-

shop' resource centre for PICs to minimise duplications and maximise utilisation of resources.

The portal will be managed by SPC's Pacific ICT Outreach (PICTO) Programme from its Suva regional office.

To access the portal, click on: <http://www.e-pic.info/>



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K-Press Perspective

Out of sight out of mind?

“If a tree falls in a dark and misty wood and no one is there to hear it does it make a sound?”

I’ve never had a problem with that old question. No matter what tricks or convolutions of logic might be employed in any argument to the contrary I know beyond a shadow of a doubt that a tree that falls in a dark and misty wood most definitely makes a sound. A tree falls and its very movement stirs the air and makes sound waves. It’s a physical phenomena whether there is a receptor or not.

As far as I’m concerned that question is similar to asking, “If you don’t ever get caught, did you do it?” Of course you did it, ya idjit, and you darn well know you did it!

It’s a matter of witnesses. No witnesses no crime? I think not! The crime still occurred even if no one ever knows about it.

That’s my opinion.

There are some people who subscribe to the chaos theory that says that a butterfly flapping its wings in Ecuador can affect events on the other side of the world and I suppose that’s possible. That theory is a bit beyond my comprehension. Certainly, it’s beyond anything for which I’d like to be held personally responsible.

But there are things for which you and I can and should be held responsible even if no one is looking. Though I know that nothing that I say here now, and nothing I’ve said on the subject before has never and may never, ever have any impact whatsoever in the place I call home, what I really want to do right now is to talk trash!

Trash is a universal subject because there isn’t a single one of us that doesn’t make it in one form or another. As best I know, though I certainly am no scientist, there isn’t a single living organism that can boast that it makes no waste product whatsoever. Waste is a by product of living. We consume in order to live and living long and living well is what we all strive to do even though we might have different opinions about what “living well,” means. But then I’ve gone off topic, haven’t I? Please do pardon the waste product of my malnourished intellect.

Humans, of all creatures, are especially inefficient in terms of the waste that we produce. Not only do we consume in order to live, some of our kind use the energy provided by their consumption in order to package what the rest of us consume into containers that no human could or should possibly ever consume and then we all stand around and wonder what we will do with the packages we produced.

I shudder to think about the hundreds of Styrofoam cups and bowls I have personally discarded in my life time that will still be on the face of the earth for many years after I have been buried under the earth’s crust itself.

Every now and then, those bits of nearly decomposable garbage I have disposed of over

my life time have come back to haunt me.

Such was the case last Tuesday evening when I attended a reception on board the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter “Rush.” The chief electronics engineer gave me a tour of the upper decks of the huge vessel which is nearly 400 feet long.

As we arrived on the gun deck I tensed up like a less than diligent host who suddenly realizes that one of his family members whilst preparing for guests has inexpertly swept dirt under the carpet leaving a massive, inescapable lump. Over my tour guide’s shoulder I saw a ribbon of detritus floating on the outgoing tide stretching across the water from the Dekehtik dock as far as my night time vision would allow and I was embarrassed.

I was embarrassed for every single piece of trash I’ve ever thrown out on a roadside or into a river when no one was looking and for the other things that I’ve done when I thought no one was looking.

I also experienced another type of embarrassment that sometimes comes, unbidden; the “these are ‘my’ people and I know they are smarter than that” kind of embarrassment; the kind of embarrassment most of us would feel if a friend were to shed his pants in a public place, hop up on a shaky table and dance to his own lurid lyrics whilst leering at spectators with one eyeball through his unzipped fly.

I was embarrassed for the people I’ve come to know and love in my adopted home who often still insist that it is cultural to throw trash into the river even though it has been a long dang while since all, or even a miniscule proportion of Pohnpei’s trash was biodegradable. I was embarrassed that I haven’t made enough of an effort to convince my neighbors that I am serious; I will make a daily trip to the controlled Dekehtik landfill with their garbage if they will just bag it and leave it all at the end of the driveway.

Actually, that is understated. I was upset (still understated) that no one has taken me serious about that offer.

I was embarrassed because at least at some point nearly every day I see my neighbors rake the non-biodegradable trash generated by their business and by others of my neighbors over the banks of the river that borders my house on three sides. The trash stacks up on the shores of “my river” waiting for what in West Texas would be called a “gully washer;” a rain storm strong enough to run down every gully and wash it out taking the trash away to some other place.

On Tuesday, I was in one of those other places.

“Out of sight out of mind?”

Whose mind? Whose perspective?

Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor



One source of “embarrassment” in ‘my’ front yard,

Astronomical Tide Prediction November 1 - 14, 2010

	Pohnpei				Chuuk			
Monday	11/01		11/08		11/01		11/08	
	05:54AM	1.6	03:58AM	3.1	06:32AM	0.0	02:42AM	0.1
	12:32PM	3.2	09:25AM	1.1	02:36PM	1.2	06:27AM	-0.1
	05:56PM	2.3	04:08PM	5.0	07:12PM	1.0	02:55PM	2.4
	11:52PM	3.6	11:00PM	0.9	11:19PM	1.2	11:28PM	-0.1
Tuesday	11/02		11/09		11/02		11/09	
	06:30AM	1.4	04:33AM	2.9	06:35AM	0.1	02:27AM	0.0
	12:57PM	3.7	09:51AM	1.2	01:35PM	1.3	06:30AM	-0.2
	06:55PM	1.8	04:41PM	4.8	07:32PM	0.7	03:20PM	2.3
Wednesday	11/03		11/10		11/03		11/10	
	12:48AM	3.7	05:08AM	2.7	12:24AM	1.1	06:37AM	-0.2
	07:02AM	1.3	10:15AM	1.4	06:36AM	0.2	03:44PM	2.2
	01:26PM	4.1	05:15PM	4.5	01:22PM	1.6		
Thursday	11/04		11/11		11/04		11/11	
	01:33AM	3.7	12:28AM	1.4	01:11AM	0.9	06:46AM	-0.2
	07:31AM	1.1	05:48AM	2.5	06:34AM	0.2	04:05PM	2.0
	01:57PM	4.5	10:36AM	1.7	01:27PM	1.9		
Friday	11/05		11/12		11/05		11/12	
	02:12AM	3.7	01:22AM	1.6	01:49AM	0.7	06:56AM	-0.2
	08:00AM	1.0	06:46AM	2.3	06:32AM	0.2	04:20PM	1.8
	02:28PM	4.9	10:49AM	2.0	01:43PM	2.2		
Saturday	11/06		11/13		11/06		11/13	
	02:49AM	3.6	02:37AM	1.8	02:18AM	0.5	07:02AM	-0.1
	08:29AM	1.0	07:12PM	3.4	06:29AM	0.1	04:22PM	1.6
	03:01PM	5.0			02:05PM	2.4		
Sunday	11/07		11/14		11/07		11/14	
	03:24AM	3.4	04:10AM	1.8	02:37AM	0.3	06:59AM	0.1
	08:57AM	1.0	08:49PM	3.1	06:27AM	0.0	03:57PM	1.4
	03:34PM	5.1			02:29PM	2.4		
	10:20PM	0.8			10:40PM	-0.1		

USAID conducts disaster preparedness exercise in Pohnpei

Embassy of the United States of America in Kolonia

On October 18-19, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) held a Disaster Preparedness Table Top Exercise at the Governor's Conference Room in Pohnpei. In preparation for the upcoming storm season, the two-day exercise simulated a disaster situation. The table top exercise stemmed from USAID's Disaster Management Conference in April, which brought together U.S. and FSM disaster response entities to discuss effective bi-lateral strategies and procedures. Event participants included USAID, U.S. Joint Task Force – Homeland Defense (JTF-HD), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the U.S. Embassy in Pohnpei, U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), FSM Office of Emergency and Environment Management (OEEM), FSM Department of Foreign Affairs, FSM Department of Health and Social Services, State Disaster Coordinators, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), World Health Organization (WHO), and United Nations (UN) plus other observers

On Monday, the exercise commenced with a Senior Leader Seminar, which briefed U.S. and FSM leadership on national and bi-lateral disaster response procedures. The U.S. delegation included Joint Task Force Homeland Defense (JTF-HD) Deputy Commanding General Joseph J. Chaves, U.S. Embassy Chargé d'Affaires Lori Dando, USAID Regional Development Mission Asia Deputy Director Barbara Krell, USAID Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) Principal Regional Advisor Al Dwyer, USAID-OFDA Disaster Assistance Coordinator Bart Deemer, FEMA Compact Coordinator Kevin Clark, Commander of Naval Forces Marianas (COMNAVMAR) Defense Representative Roy Tsutsui and SBA Administrator Alfred Judd. The FSM delegation included Health and Social Services Secretary Vida Akapito-Skilling, Foreign Affairs Deputy Secretary Jane Chigiyal, OEEM Director Andrew Yatilman, Kosrae State Governor Robert J. Weilbacher, Yap State Lieutenant Governor Tony Tareg, Chuuk State Lieutenant Governor Johnson S. Elimo, and Governor's Chief of Staff Wilfred Robert. During the morning session, Director Yatilman briefed the leaders on national emergency actions in the aftermath of a disaster that would determine if the FSM Government would request disaster assistance from the U.S. Government. On the U.S. side, Kevin Clark spoke on the Operational Blueprint for disaster mitigation, relief, and reconstruction, as well as the minimum criteria needed to request U.S. disaster assistance.

Following the Leader Seminar, the senior U.S. - FSM representatives joined participants of the Table Top Exercise. In her opening remarks, Chargé Dando highlighted USAID's "collaborative approach" to providing disaster assistance in the FSM and to creating "broad and sincere relationships among individuals and organizations to encourage trust, foster a team atmosphere build consensus, and facilitate communication."

In his closing remarks, Major General Chavez described disaster management as a "continuous process of improvement," and encouraged table top participants to view the exercise as the beginning, not the end, of their disaster management efforts.

In honor of the table top exercise participants, the U.S. Embassy hosted a dinner reception at the Ambassador's Residence in Nanpohnmal on October 18.



USAID Disaster Assistance Coordinator Bart Deemer presents an overview of the table top exercise disaster simulation in Pohnpei October 18.



Participants of the Table Top Exercise assemble in front of the Pohnpei State Government Building in Kolonia October 19.

i link

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Seafloor minerals could be mined soon

Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission

With the first mining of Seabed Massive Sulphides (SMS) deposits less than three years from startup in Papua New Guinea, Pacific Island countries have been urged to encourage mineral exploration within their Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) by SOPAC's Akuila Tawake, SOPAC's Aggregate Geologist.

EEZ is the two hundred nautical miles internationally recognized ocean zone reaching out from a coastline of a Pacific island country. All economic activity within the zone belongs to that country including its mineral wealth.

Mr. Tawake, speaking at the SOPAC/STAR

meeting held in Nadi this week, said that based on the results of previous studies, a number of the island countries have marine mineral potential.

He listed the major marine mineral deposits into three groups: SMS (Seafloor Massive Sulphides), Cobalt-rich Crusts, and Manganese Nodules.

SMS deposits include high grade copper, with significant enrichment in gold, silver, zinc and lead. These can usually be found at depths from 350 metres to 5,000 metres.

Cobalt-rich crusts include cobalt, nickel and platinum and range in depths from 400 to 4,000 metres.

The last is the manganese nodules found on the ocean floor at depths ranging from 4,000 to 6,000 metres. They are a composite of manganese, iron, cobalt, nickel and copper.

Before any mining operation can be considered, significant investments and detailed exploration is required (not to mention the lead time) and countries in the region can ill-afford these costs," said Mr. Tawake.

Three countries in the region are at various stages of exploration.

The Canadian mining company, Nautilus Minerals, began its research in Papua New Guinea in 2005 and is expected to begin operations at it Solwara 1 site in 2012. It will mine Seafloor

Massive Sulphides (SMS).

Nautilus has also begun exploration of SMS sites in Tonga and the Solomon Islands. It could take up to at least five years before conclusive evidence is produced that a mine in either country is feasible, he said.

Mr. Tawake said that SOPAC has been working closely with island countries in the region to encourage them into exploring their seabed mineral assets.

"With Japan, we partnered a 21 year study of deep seas mineral resources from 1985 through 2005. Through this survey, we have the most complete data on seabed mineralization in the region.

"We are now preparing a number of brochures with detailed information as a guide for public awareness and to promote the minerals potential of Pacific Island Countries to potential investors.

It is the mining companies that will have the resources and expertise to carry out the proper exploration and this should be encouraged.

But these countries through sound policy, legislation and regulations would be better placed to introduce this exploration. He did caution that governments should not penalize exploration through taxes. It is a common practice throughout the exploration/mining industry worldwide to introduce tax holiday to exploration projects to encourage investment in the minerals sector.

"Exploration is purely at the cost of the mining company. Imposing taxes on exploration would be a major deterrent. Tax should only be imposed introduced after the mine becomes operational," he said.

LDS Church donates desalination unit to Chuuk State

October 20, 2010 - Mwan, Chuuk State, FSM - "Water, water everywhere, and not a drop to drink," quoted Chuuk State Governor Wesley W. Simina who expressed his concerns about the lack of drinking water due to recent droughts experienced on the island. His remarks were made as he accepted a desalination unit donated by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons) in a ceremony on October 19, 2010. In expressing appreciation he said, "On behalf of the people of Chuuk and the Chuuk State government, I say thank you! Indeed, words cannot express how much we are thankful for what you have done."

The desalination unit will convert ocean water into pure drinking water for the islanders. The donation was announced by Elder D. Todd Christofferson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles of the Church who visited Chuuk to dedicate a new meetinghouse in Mwan on May 12, 2010. The unit is part of an ongoing effort by the Church to provide humanitarian relief in Micronesia.

In the ceremony held at the new Mwan meetinghouse, Elder Gary E. Stevenson, president of the Asia North Area of the Church said, "What a great leadership we see from Governor Simina and his foresight about the need for water. We are grateful that the technology exists to be able to do what is going to be done. We express our love and gratitude to everyone." He then reiterated Governor Simina's encouragement to the members of the Church saying "Be good, be faithful, be helpful, follow what your heart tells you...This church is good for you. This church is good for Chuuk."

Over 300 people looked on as Governor Simina and Elder Stevenson pressed the buttons and turned the valves to allow water pumped from the ocean to begin its journey through an elaborate maze of filters used to create purified drinking water. People of all ages were in awe as the first stream of water splashed from the blue hose. They

erupted in cheers as Elder Stevenson and Governor Simina took their first gulp of the refreshing, purified water.

The crowd swarmed around the hose and cup after cup was filled with thirst-quenching, cool, clear water. Fiana Petrus, age 9, exclaimed with a smile, "It's delicious!" Tarsi Wainis, Chuuk District President for the Church, gave a thumbs up as he shared his feelings about how this was a miracle for the island. He explained that they had suffered through a drought recently and had appealed to different sources for help. Members of the Mormon Church and other Christian religions had prayed for rain and received some relief. And now, through the miracles of modern technology, the island has access to life-giving water during times of drought.

Lifestream Watersystems Inc. of Huntington Beach, California, manufactured and shipped the equipment being donated which includes the desalination unit and filtration system, a 60 KW diesel generator, a one-year supply of spare parts and special tools housed in a custom 28-foot trailer. The unit is capable of producing 26,400 gallons of pure water per day, enough to give every resident of Chuuk a half-gallon of fresh water a day in times of emergency. The Church also included, as

part of the donation, training for the Chuuk Public Utilities Commission employees who will be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the unit. This training is being conducted by Ed Kimmel, President of Lifestream Watersystems. The total value of this donation is \$250,000.

Upon expressing his gratitude for this donation, Governor Simina looked to the future saying, "I look forward to working with this Church to continue the humanitarian efforts and their assistance to the people of Chuuk." He then announced the signing of an agreement that will allow the Church to digitize selected government records including delayed birth certificates, birth certificates, death certificates, historical & cultural site records, World War II photos from the Japanese period, and artifact photos at no cost to the government.

Michael L. Dowdle, Micronesia-Guam Mission President, explained that the Church sponsors many humanitarian relief and emergency response projects around the world. Funding is made possible by donations from members of the Church and others. The aim is to help children and families of all nationalities and religions through relieving suffering, helping people help themselves, and providing opportunities for service.



Chuuk State Governor Wesley W. Simina toasts as Elder Gary E. Stevenson takes the inaugural drink

Yap requests national assistance in U.S. citizen drowning

Yap Department of Youth and Social Affairs

Acting Governor Maria Laaw sent a letter today to National Department of Foreign Affairs Secretary Lorin S. Robert requesting his department's assistance in conveying the tragic death of a U.S. citizen in Yap State to the U.S. Government.

Andrew Armstrong Buth was on Fais Island visiting his girlfriend, Charity Drew, when he drowned while spear fishing alone on the southwest reefs of Fais. Since he did not return by late afternoon, his host family and members of the community searched for him and found his body submerged outside the reef and was recovered.

The deceased was born on July 21, 1985 and was granted entry on visiting permit at Yap airport on 13th April, 2010.

Acting Governor Laaw requested the assistance of Foreign Affairs in notifying family members and proper U.S. authorities on tragic matter.

Aliens Invade Pohnpei!

By Josh Fuder

Our beautiful island home is being overtaken by thousands, if not millions of alien invaders. These alien invaders are not the kind that we see in movies but the kind that grow in our soil, nest in our trees and swim in our waters. These "aliens" are introduced species that compete with our native flora and fauna.

What is an Invasive Species?

The term "Invasive Species" is used by scientists and conservationists around the world to describe any plant, animal, or other organism that cause - or is capable of causing environmental, economic, or human harm. Invasive species often compete so effectively that they displace native species and interrupt or destroy entire ecosystems. Plants, mammals, birds, fish, insects, and diseases can all be invasive.

The Effect of Invasives

Pohnpeians depend on healthy functioning ecosystems for things like: fresh air, clean water, food, cultural heritage, and protection from extreme weather and tidal patterns. When invasives become established in an ecosystem/island, they can negatively impact how that ecosystem/island functions in a number of ways. The forests of Guam, for example, are now silent due to the introduction of the Brown Tree Snake. In addition to the loss of native birds, fly-

ing foxes, lizards and small terrestrial mammals the snake causes tens of millions of dollars a year in socioeconomic impacts.

Benefits of Native Forests

Pohnpei's ecosystems and their inhabitants evolved for millions of years before the first canoe with human settlers arrived. As a result, many of the island's plant, animal, and insect species exist nowhere else on Earth. 61 species of plants, nine species of ants, and two or three species of birds are classified as endemic, which means that they exist nowhere else on Earth! Many of Pohnpei's species are yet to be discovered and documented by modern science as well. Just this year a study by Dr. Richard Mackenzie revealed 11 new species of aquatic insects!

Healthy native forests provide Pohnpei with a number of invaluable products and services, like:

- Clean Air and Water
- Food and Habitat for Native Birds and Insects
- Biodiversity
- Food and Harvestable Products for Daily Life
- Cultural Heritage
- Medicine
- Recreation and Tourism

Invasive Species in Pohnpei

Invasive species arrive to Pohnpei in a number of ways. Most often these species arrive as a direct result of humans, either as stowaways on boats and ships or more directly by people who bring them here because they find them appealing. Currently there are two known invasive bird species, Feral Pigeon and the Tree Sparrow, two species of fish, Tilapia and Catfish, and large number of

plants, including vines, shrubs and trees.

In 2000 a group that is currently know as the Invasive Species Taskforce of Pohnpei (iSTOP) was formed by various State and National government partners, Non-Governmental Organizations, United States Agencies, and College of Micronesia-FSM stakeholders to address the rising concern of invasives in Pohnpei. This group has been diligent in their efforts to raise awareness of the threat of invasives to the general public and has even become a sub-committee of the Pohnpei Resource Management Committee (PRMC), which advises the Governor.

Eradication and management of invasive species can be difficult and sometimes impossible once they become established. Some species, like the African Tulip tree, have been ruled out as a possible target for eradication because of their characteristics and cost to control. iSTOP is currently targeting 10 species that have the potential to be totally eradicated from Pohnpei.

Top 10 Target Species

1. False Sakau - Sakau Likamw
2. Chain of Love - Rohsenpoak Suwed
3. Ivy Gourd - Aipikohrd
4. Octopus Tree - Tuhke Kihs
5. Mile-a-Minute - Selmwadang
6. Honolulu Rose - Rohsen Onoluhlu
7. Bengal Trumpet Vine - Iolen Pengkal
8. Lolo Pepper - Pepper Lolo
9. Feral Pigeon - Mwuroi en wai
10. Tree Sparrow

In order to protect Pohnpei from these and other invaders iSTOP and the Conservation Society of Pohnpei (CSP) needs your help. To learn more about the invasive species of Pohnpei call or stop by the CSP's office. We have a number of resources like pamphlets, posters and a booklet that highlights the invasive weeds of Pohnpei.


Things You Can Do

1. Report any invasives to CSP (320-5409) or iSTOP (320-2400)
2. Do not bring ANY foreign species in to Pohnpei without an import permit from the Federated States of Micronesia office of Quarantine
3. Cooperate with officers by allowing known invasives to be eradicated from your land or property

Some plants, like this Bengal Trumpet, are very appealing as a decorative ornamental but can still become a noxious weed. Unless you check with Quarantine first. DO NOT BRING IN OUTSIDE PLANTS AND ANIMALS. Because they may become invasive and destroy our delicate environment.

Brought in because it had an appealing flower this vine has created a huge problem in Kolonia by smothering the neighboring vegetation and utility lines. Please help prevent problems like this by NOT BRINGING IN OUTSIDE PLANTS AND ANIMALS. You can also help by identifying invasives in your area and cooperating with management efforts being undertaken by the Conservation Society of Pohnpei



 **PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM SECRETARIAT**

TAIWAN/ROC-PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2010/2011

Citizens of FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA are invited to apply for scholarships under the Taiwan/ROC-Pacific Islands Forum Scholarship Scheme. Scholarships will be awarded for FULL or PART TIME studies at certificate, diploma undergraduate or postgraduate levels within the specified priority fields. Awards are tenable at accredited tertiary institutions in FICs and Taiwan/Republic of China. The list of eligible institutions is available on the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat website: www.forumsec.org

THE SCHOLARSHIP
Covers tuition fees, text book, living and accommodation allowances (*special conditions apply for the accommodation allowance), medical insurance, and one return economy airfare to the country of study.
Note: There are no allowances for dependants.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS – Applicants must:

- be a citizen of Federated States of Micronesia and a resident in Federated States of Micronesia for five years prior to application, excluding years of study overseas
- be applying to commence a new programme of study and not be seeking support for study already commenced
- have been accepted into a programme of study and institution, or should show proof of application when requested
- not be more than 35 years old for an undergraduate programme and not be more than 40 years old for a post graduate programme
- be in good health, and not hold a criminal record
- be able to take up the award within the scholarship year
- not be under any bonding requirements at the commencement of this award

PRIORITY FIELDS FOR FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

1. Fisheries
2. Agriculture
3. Tourism

SELECTION CRITERIA - Selection will be on the basis of fulfillment of the eligibility requirements and merit within the country priority fields. Gender equity will also be considered.

PROCEDURE - Applicants should:

- obtain forms from your National Scholarship Office; download forms off the Secretariat's website www.forumsec.org or collect forms from the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Suva, Fiji.
- ensure that all sections of the application form are completed with certified supporting documents attached.
- ensure that the application is endorsed by the National Scholarship Authority and Ministry of Foreign Affairs (or External Affairs) prior to submission to the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.

CLOSING DATE: Applications must reach the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Private Mail Bag, Suva, FIJI by 4pm, Friday 19 November 2010. Late applications will not be accepted.

Please note:

- The Secretariat will ONLY contact successful applicants. Please provide contact details where you can be reached.

For enquires contact: The Scholarships Officer, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Private Mail Bag, Suva, Fiji Islands; tel: (679) 3312 600 / 3220 333; fax (679) 3220 279; email: info@forumsec.org.fj

Pohnpei mulls proposed 1,000-room casino resort

By Haidee V. Eugenio

Palikir, Pohnpei (Saipan Tribune, Oct. 20, 2010/ FSM Public Information Office): October 21, 2010 — Three senators and one legislative staffer from Pohnpei turned to members of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) House of Representatives led by Speaker Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan), on October 19, for guidance and information as Pohnpei courts an investor planning to build a 1,000-room casino and golf resort.

Pohnpei is one of four states that make up the Federated States of Micronesia.

Pohnpei Sen. Robert P. Nakasone, chair of the Judiciary and Governmental Operation Committee and head of the four-member delegation, said they are on Saipan for a fact-finding mission.

The delegation will also be visiting Tinian today because of Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino.

After hearing from CNMI lawmakers about Rota's emerging casino operation, the Pohnpei delegation may also visit Rota on their way to Guam.

The Pohnpei senators said their Executive Branch signed a memorandum of understanding with a foreign investor for a phased-in construction of a 1,000-room hotel/casino resort with a golf course.

"Our purpose is to see the situation here. We understand there's one (casino) on Tinian, and we will visit Tinian on Wednesday,"

Nakasone told CNMI House members.

Nakasone said the Pohnpei government has to look into changing laws and policies to allow for casino operation.

Among other things, gambling is not permitted in Pohnpei, he said.

"Without a law, public land can't be designated for casino. There's a potential investor, but how quickly it would be built, we don't know," he added.

Pohnpei Sen. Aurelio P. Joab, vice chair of the Committee on Resources and Development, said they are looking at a minimum investment of \$50 million for the casino/resort and golf course.

He said with the completion of the ongoing runway extension by middle of 2011, Pohnpei hopes that more flights will come their way to bring in more tourists.

The visiting senators said Pohnpei's tourism arrival is "very low."

Besides Nakasone and Joab, the two other delegation members are Sen. Marvin Yamaguchi and legislative staffer Luciano Saimon.

Rep. Frederick P. Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) said the best advice he could give the visiting lawmakers is this: "Make sure your (casino) customers are tourists, not local people. That's the income you need."

Deleon Guerrero cited as an example the CNMI's experience with poker establishments which were allowed to operate on

the islands for tourists. But poker parlors throughout the CNMI ended up catering to local residents.

House floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan) applauded the Pohnpei senators for taking the time to visit the CNMI to learn more about casino operation, its challenges and successes.

He said too many connecting flights to and from Pohnpei may discourage tourists, so air services should be seriously considered.

The Pohnpei senators also asked how the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino is benefiting the CNMI economy.

Tenorio said because the Dynasty was granted a qualifying certificate, it's been exempted from paying business gross revenue taxes and that the CNMI economy only generates revenue from the taxes paid by the employees employed by the casino.

Former House speaker Pedro Deleon Guerrero said Dynasty also provides local employment, and that tax from casino revenue goes to supporting public infrastructure, scholarship, medical referral, and operation of the municipal government.

Tenorio also told the visiting lawmakers that although the CNMI Senate rejected a House bill seeking to legalize casino operations on Saipan, there's still a chance that the House may vote on another casino bill, or for the Senate to reconsider its decision, or for a popular initiative to be presented to voters in the next election.

"In my opinion, the only thing that can save

our Commonwealth are casinos. Revenues are just going down every year. Maybe you too in Pohnpei should consider something like this," Tenorio said.

Ogumoro, for her part, said it may be easier to allow casino operations in Pohnpei where the Legislature is unicameral. The CNMI has a bicameral Legislature and each house does not seem to meet eye to eye on a lot of issues, including the budget which resulted in the government's recent partial shutdown.

Also present at the meeting were Rep. Ramon Basa (Cov-Saipan) and Rep. Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan).

The visiting senators thanked the CNMI House members for sharing information, insights and recommendations related to allowing casino operation.

House members took turns telling the members of the Pohnpei delegation to consider scaling down the 1,000-room hotel/casino development because it may be too big for the island, and to also visit the casino operations in Macau, Korea, and the Philippines. The visiting lawmakers also said the FSM government is looking into alternative sources of funding and ways to grow the economy ahead of the expiration of the U.S.-FMS Compact agreement. Besides tourism, which includes a potential casino investment, the FSM is also looking at further developing its fisheries and agriculture.

Palau declares its EEZ as a marine sanctuary

25 OCTOBER 2010 NAGOYA (Pacific Voyage Media/SPREP) --- Palau has used celebrations to mark Oceans Day in Nagoya, Japan to announce the establishment of a sanctuary for marine mammals in its waters.

This makes Palau one of the first countries in the world to declare and legislate its waters to protect marine mammals.

Its environment and natural resources minister, Harry Fritz made the announcement at the margins of the two weeks Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity currently underway in the Japanese city.

The sanctuary will protect whales, dolphins, and dugongs.

Palau's dugongs are the most isolated and endangered population in the world.

"We also have at least 11 species of cetaceans in our waters, including a breeding population of Sperm Whales and

possibly as many as 30 other species of whales and dolphins that utilize our EEZ. This sanctuary will promote sustainable whale-watching tourism, already a growing multi-million dollar global industry, as an economic opportunity for the people of Palau, said Minister Fritz.

He said biodiversity has always been integral to the Palauan culture.

"Our traditional identity, values, legends, and practices are intimately linked to our surroundings and to our relationships with living creatures.

Conservation of biodiversity is ingrained in our daily approach to life and inherent in the meaning of our words. From ancient times to today we have conserved our biodiversity through the tools of "bul" or moratoria, and protection of critical areas, said Minister Fritz.

The International Whaling Commission has recognized that there is clear scientific evidence that in the Pacific Islands

region many of the great whale species remain severely depleted in numbers, due to the impacts of past whaling.

"It a well-established scientific principle that, to protect migratory species, it is necessary to protect them not only in their feeding areas and migratory routes but also in their breeding grounds, said the Palau minister.

He announced that his President, Johnson Toribiong has declared the island nation's more than 600,000 square kilometres of Exclusive Economic Zone a sanctuary for all marine mammals, including dugongs and all whales and dolphins.

"This will prohibit the deliberate hunting and harassment of any marine mammals. We urge other countries to join our efforts to protect whales, dolphins, and other marine mammals—for the sake of the species, as well as the future economic, social, and spiritual development of coastal peoples.



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Crossword - Slivered Side

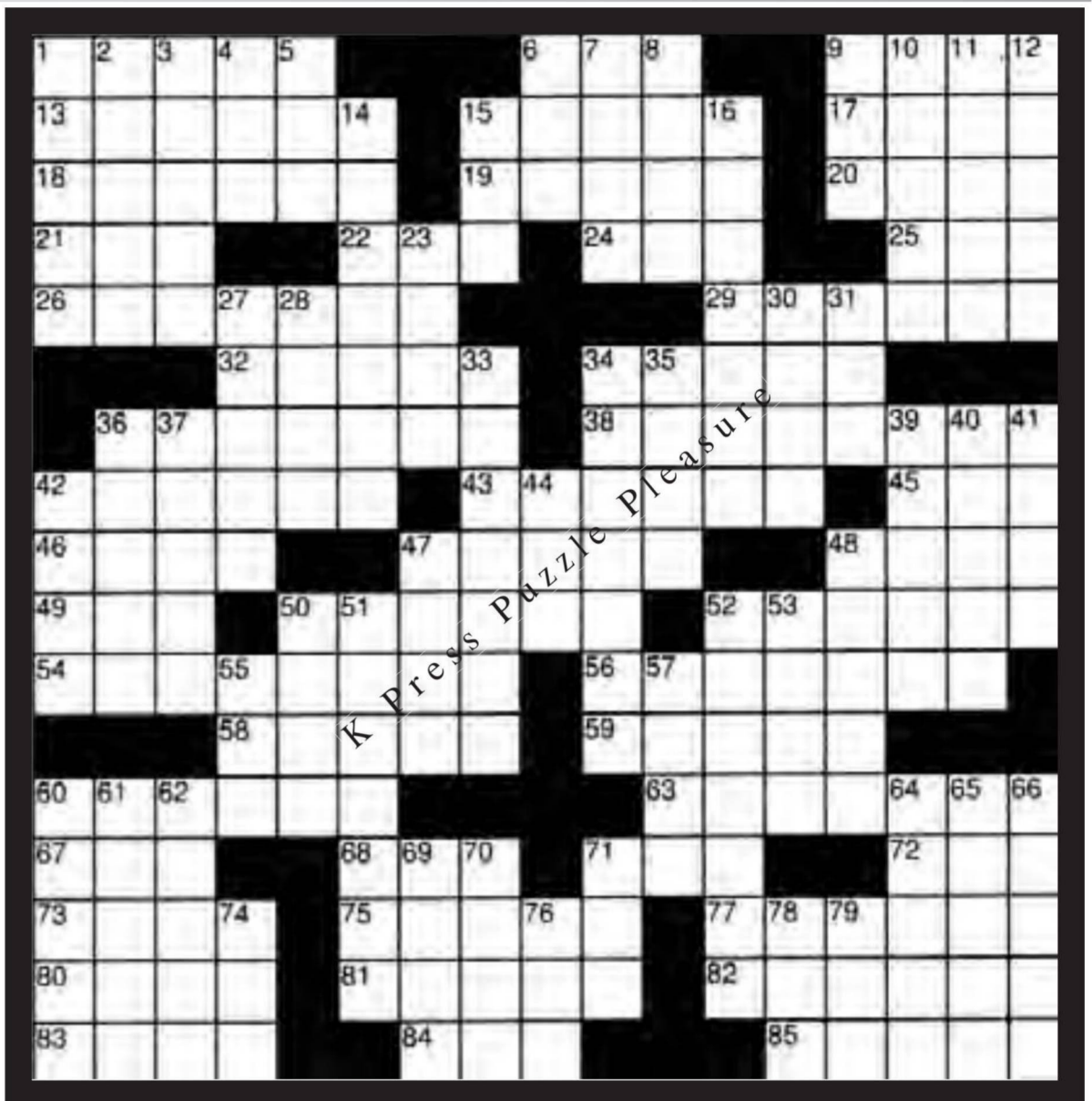
ACROSS

ACROSS

1. Animals
6. Suggestion
9. Puts in the form of a question
13. Be compulsive
15. Church law
17. Slivered side
18. Detest
19. Quitters cry
20. Cocoon dweller
21. Made a hole
22. Its poured hot
24. Greedy one
25. Routine routine
26. Spy's skill
29. Edits a screenplay
32. Balls
34. Fabric shop purchase
36. Most ornery
38. Kind of mark
42. Nursery item
43. Drink purchases
45. Bond, i.e.
46. Pay to play
47. Gold standard
48. Skedaddle
49. It's often needed before a long drive
50. Wayward one
52. Star quality
54. Like some marriages
56. Brings forth
58. Weeps
59. Place to grab a bite
60. Hidden cave
63. They spray
67. Fireplace item
68. Boxer's umpire
71. Miniature
72. Minting plate
73. Hole makers
75. Send away
77. Compete
80. Make a big stink
81. Ventured
82. Praised
83. Current event?
84. Got together
85. Nuisances

DOWN

1. Closes shop
2. ___ a boy
3. Accepted practice
4. Tennis barrier
5. Shade of gray
6. Summer skin hue
7. Part of a foot
8. Mallet game
9. African menace
10. Soup sound
11. On the blink
12. Hunts flies
14. Pioneer
15. Mean mutt
16. Canceled out
23. Triumphant cries
27. Like an open mouth
28. Boulevard
30. Badmouth
31. Strong lifter
33. Fibers
34. Times itself
35. Nana's daughter
36. One down under
37. BBQ enthusiast
39. A place to get away to
40. Sport events
41. Da opposite
42. Stats
44. Quest of a 36
- Down
47. Baby bouncer
48. Tease
50. Tizzy
51. Paid no attention to
52. Least large
53. Specialists
55. Likely
57. Citrus fruit
60. Night driver's problem
61. Maneuvered a boat
62. Acted like a 48
- Down
64. Polishes
65. Metal fastener
66. Grower's supply
69. Blue book event
70. Frankenstein fear
71. Tied the knot
74. Plane's place
76. Court call
78. Best
79. Lament



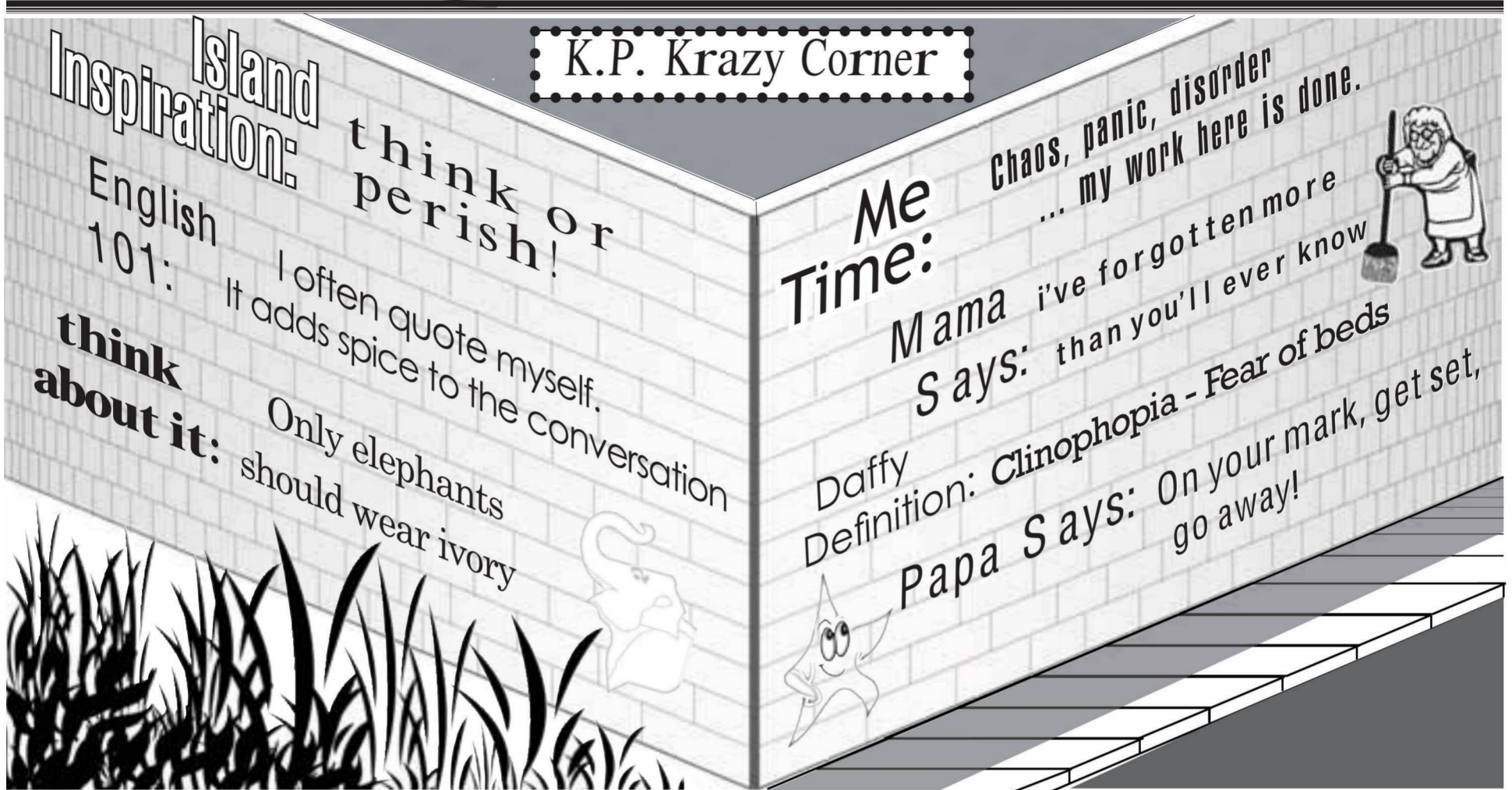
modern movies

The Apollo 13 space mission came to the big screen in the 1995 film *Apollo 13*, starring Tom Hanks, Kevin Bacon, Bill Paxton, and Gary Sinise as astronauts involved with the ill-fated flight. This film won Oscars for Film Editing and Sound. After you've circled all the words, the unused letters, when read from left to right, starting at the top, will spell out the titles of three other movies starring Tom Hanks.

S E M A J E L U D O M F O R
 R W E S A H T I W N T G U M
 P S I A V S O F T H E A I D
 I N C G R V T M W O R K S W
 G L O N A A P R E J F R H F
 I L N O V R N A O D I E K E
 T E T O R E T U R N N N X V
 E V R M I R L Y L A A P A E
 Y O O E T S N B N T L U O R
 T L L H H A S T A O L X T I
 D R E T S A S I D E Y T Y S
 E I O F F O N E M G R H A H
 R I N H A I S E E G Y A W L
 F O U D O S L N E M E H T Y

Astronauts James Lovell, Fred Haise, and John Swigart lift off on thier way to the moon. When an oxygen tank explodes, mission

control works feverishly to avoid disaster. Finally with the aid of the lunar module, the men are able to return home safely.



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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. For details, call 320-8365.
- 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 Baha'i 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

Continental Airlines releases new island hopper schedule

FSM Public Information Office

October 27, 2010

Palikir, Pohnpei October 27, 2010 – Continental Airlines released yesterday a new schedule for the Island Hopper, to become effective January 5, 2011. From that date, moving forward, the Island Hopper will depart Guam on Mondays and Fridays at 9:30AM and arrive in Honolulu at 4:00AM. On Wednesdays, the Island Hopper will depart Guam at

10:30AM, overfly Kosrae, and arrive in Honolulu also at 4:00AM.

Regarding the return schedule, the Island Hopper will depart from Honolulu at 5:50AM on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The Monday and Friday flights will arrive in Guam, respectively on Tuesdays and Saturdays, at 4:26PM; while the Wednesday flight will arrive in Guam on Thursdays at 3:06PM.

The 2010 WFD Celebration in Pohnpei is a Greater Success

By Adelino Lorens

The WFD celebration this year was held on Friday October 22nd, at the IFCP multipurpose building at the botanical garden in Kolonia. Paramount Chief Wasalapalap Isipahu the Nahnmwariki of Madolenihmw also the Chairman of the Mwoalen Wahu, Governor John Ehsa, and Dr. Rufino Mauricio the Chairman of the National Millennium Development Goal Task Force, spoke in the ceremony. As the keynote speaker Dr. Rufino Mauricio spoke on theme "United Against Hunger", specifying the food security issues facing Pohnpei and the FSM and stressed the need for all members of the community to be united to prevent hardships arising from insufficient food. The Australian Ambassador Susan Cox also spoke during the presentations of the student winners on the essay contest. Vicar Fr. Julio Angkel said the Prayer, follow by a welcome remarks by OEA Administrator Valerio Hallens. Thanks to SDA youths for singing in the program. This year's celebration attracted more than 500 participants/audience constituting traditional leaders, governments, members of the diplomatic core, business community, government and non-government organizations, farmers, students, youth, and women representatives.

The 2010 WFD activities were successfully accomplished as planned including; crop/livestock exhibits, cooking competition, essay contest, distribution of planting materials, agency display, and fresh produce sales from the PRC supported Pilot Farm. Six categories in the crop exhibits namely yam (9 varieties), banana (17 rare and high demand local banana varieties), common locally produced vegetables (10 types), fruits (10 of Pohnpei fruits), root crops (8 types), and other crops including Pohnpei pepper. A total of 900 exhibits were registered during the 2010 WFD event. These exhibits included crops and livestock. As usual the purpose of the cooking competition is to promote nutritionally rich locally prepared recipes. This year 18 women participated in the competition under the

5 classified recipe categories; Karat, Taiwang, Uhpw, taro, and an open recipe. A total of 36 seventh and eight graders, representing 19 different elementary schools in Pohnpei took part in the essay competition. The seventh graders wrote in Pohnpeian while the eight wrote in English on the same theme "United Against Hunger". Another attraction this year is the distribution of planting materials to farmers and all interested local producers. They returned to respective farm lands with assorted planting materials of selected coconut, rare banana, taro, sweet potato, and vegetable seeds (cucumber, watermelon, chinese cabbage, tomato, and bell pepper). Total quantities distributed were 100 coconut seedlings, 500 banana suckers, 1000 taro suckers, 1000 cuttings of sweet potato and 50 three grams seed packages each of the 6 vegetables mentioned above. Thanks and appreciation extended to Pohnpei Public Health Division, Pohnpei Forestry Division, Pohnpei Visitors Bureau, COM FSM CRE, NRCS, ISTOP, IFCP, for setting up booths to inform, distribute, and delivery of your respective information/services to general public as part of the 2010 WFD celebration.

The 2010 WFD accomplishment is greater compared with 2009 and years before. The number of participants registered and took part in this year's activities is 390, while the number of exhibit is 966. Both numbers of farmer and exhibit were more than doubled the result last year. A special grand award was given to 2 farmers for the most number of exhibits and points which goes to Kesia Paulino and Pedrus Abram respectively. Record shows that both farmers, Kesia Paulino from Kittu and Pedrus Abram from U have always been active participants in the past years WFD events. Each were given a weed eater as the prize for the grand awards.

This year's WFD was made possible by financial contribution from the national government, Pohnpei State, the Australian Embassy and Mesenieng Credit Union.



Ethnobotany class visits Island Food Community of Pohnpei

By: Dana Lee Ling /Emihner Johnson

The SC/SS 115 Ethnobotany, class at the College of Micronesia-FSM, visited the Island Food Community of Pohnpei to learn about the importance of local food, or as is said now around Pohnpei, "Go local!"

Mrs. Emihner Johnson presented the IFCP Standard Talk and the Nutritional Values of Local Food.

She drove home the aphorism, "Plant, grow, harvest, cook, and eat!" The class also learned that growing and eating local has important positive impacts for Pohnpei, captured by the abbreviation CHEEF:

Culture: local food nurtures culture
Health: local food keeps one healthy
Environment: local food is biodegradable (as opposed to imported food which comes in substantial packaging)

Economy: local food promotes the local economy and increases the gross domestic product

Food Security: local food would be critically important in the wake of an emergency, local food is also safe food - no

additives.

Mrs. Johnson then presented information on the beta carotene content of various local foods, contrasting the abundance of the vitamin A precursor in local foods and the absence in rice. As a substitute for local starches, white rice has been a unfortunate choice for Micronesians and their health. The de-valuing of local food has not just occurred on the home front where imported rice and bread made from imported flour have become staple starches. Today, In the nahs during a kamadipw or funeral, Konot or Pweniou marienta is not often local food and no longer served in a local basket or kiam, instead in an imported plastic tray. In the past the kings were presented the best of the local food in a locally made basket such as a kiam.

After the presentation the class had a tour lead by Mrs. Emihner Johnson in the Banana Collection Plot garden at Island Food Community of Pohnpei, located at Pwunso, in the botanical garden. As she lead the class though the farm, she named and explained the importance and the physical description of each of the many varieties of banana in the garden. For those unfamiliar with bananas, there are dozens of varieties of bananas each with their own unique flavor. The rise of the monoculture of Cavendish bananas is one of the great tragedies of the modern world. Many of the local varieties are not only brightly colored, but also loaded with nutrients. Island Food Community has been a global pioneer in bringing awareness of the nutritional value of some of the unique varieties of bananas found in these Pacific island.

Pohnpei participated at the Guam Micronesia Island Fair 2010

By: Emihner Johnson

The Guam Micronesia Island Fair(GMIF) 2010 was held on Guam at Ypao Beach on October 15, 16, and 17. Over thirty participants from Pohnpei attended this three-Day fair.

Heading the delegation from Pohnpei was The Honorable John Ehsa, Governor of Pohnpei. The Pohnpei delegation team consisted of Government officials, Pohnpei Visitors Bureau, members of Lien Pohnpei Met, Island Food Community of Pohnpei, several business owners, and Sapwuafik dancers.

The GMIF officially started 9:00 am on October 15, with an opening ceremony. During the ceremony, the Sapwuafik dancers did exhibit an ipwdakan dance and a Pohnpeian Koansar dance by the Lien Pohnpei Met.

The Pohnpei Exhibition Booth was fully filled with Pohnpeian products including skirts, local food, Karat and Utin Iap bananas, local drinks (madeu), sakau, handicrafts, pearls, and other items. The food, sakau, and the skirts were all sold out by the morning of the second day.

The Guam Pohnpeian Community did a Dokia Wen Koampir dance and an exhibition of Pohnpeian Culture, (Uhmw and Sakau)Ceremony in the evening of Saturday.

Acknowledgement of thanks are made to the Pohnpei Visitors Bureau, Guam Visitors Bureau, Continental Airlines Micronesia for organizing the Guam Micronesia Island Fair of this year.

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