

The  
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**KASELEHLIE Press**

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## Tragic Helicopter Crash Kills One and Injures One in Pohnpei

September 28 Will Long Be Remembered By Pohnpei Emergency Crews as One of the Worst for Accidents

By **BILL JAYNES**  
*The Kaselehlie Press*

**Nett, Pohnpei** – Friday, September 28 was a bad day for accidents in Pohnpei. Not long after emergency teams arrived on the scene of an accident in which a large tree fell across the road onto a passing vehicle, breaking the driver's legs and taking out two power poles in the vicinity of the Moylan's Insurance building they received another call. A helicopter had crashed into the retaining wall of "Club Flamingo" in Nett.

That anyone survived the tragic crash of a helicopter belonging to the Australian owned company, Tropic Helicopters, is a miracle. The helicopter went down at approximately 3:45 on Friday afternoon killing the pilot, Sammy Villamena and injuring passenger Cliff Pereda. Pereda is in the



ing them to bring everything they had.

She ran up the stairs, locked the bar and before she got to the accident site the Fire Truck and Emergency Services Vehicle were already on the scene.

The "explosion" she heard was likely the pontoon's that allow the helicopter to land on water popping like two giant balloons. There was no fuel explosion.

Pohnpei International Airport has the only fire trucks that could have dealt with any explosion. The office was notified of the crash as part of the calls

that the Police Department made in order to deal with the disaster. The person who answered the phone was apparently reluctant to inter-

See "Tragedy" on page 9

## Controversy in Mobil Oil Micronesia Acquisition Plan

Pohnpei Seeks a "Pohnpei Plan"; FSM Congress Even So, Passes an FSM Plan

By **BILL JAYNES**  
*The Kaselehlie Press*

A letter authored and signed by Speaker Nelson N. Pelep of the Pohnpei State Legislature on September 21 lists for Governor Johnny P. David of Pohnpei, six reasons why the Governor should not sign the supply contract or the asset purchase agreement negotiated between the FSM Fuel Task Force and Mobil. According to the letter the six reasons were developed as a result of a leadership meeting held on Monday, September 17.

The FSM Congress passed the "Federated States of Micronesia Petroleum Act of 2007" on September 7 establishing the new public corporation. The bill was only passed after members were assured that all of the States had signed an endorsement of the Petroleum Corporation Bill at the Chief Executive's Council. Senator Dohsis Halbert of the Pohnpei State Delegation on the

Pohnpei State Hospital with broken ribs.

Marie Olter, owner of the nearby bar, "The Rusty Anchor" was preparing for opening when she heard an explosion that she said "shook

the building". The security guard for the bar had been in the parking lot and ran in telling Marie that he thought the sound had been caused by a helicopter he'd just seen fly overhead. She called the police tell-

day of the second reading of the Petroleum bill expressed surprise and skepticism that Lt. Governor Jack Yakana had signed off for Pohnpei, on the CEC's endorsement of the bill.

According to Speaker Pelep's letter that signature was based on certain assurances. One of those perceived assurances included the Legislature's second reason for not signing the agreements. The letter said that Yap State also requested the same assurances. The State governments had requested that Congress legislate the ability for States to "divest fuel farms located within their jurisdiction upon payment by each State of the value of the fuel farm assets." The letter says, "...the FSM Petroleum Corporation signed into law by the President does not allow Pohnpei to control its own destiny with respect to the Dekehtik fuel farm."

Pelep's letter says that instead of

the promise, the "FSM Code provides that divestment can only occur with the unanimous consent of the [Chief] Executive Council (the President and four State governors) and only so long as the FSM Government no longer has any contractual obligations."

The first of the reasons that Speaker Pelep mentions in his letter is a "Potential Antitrust liability". Because of a ruling in 2006 in which Pohnpei was held liable for "treble damages".

Pohnpei State was ruled to be a "person" and was held liable under the law that prohibits "anticompetitive practices in the FSM and provide[s] the potential for treble damages for any 'person' found to have violated these provisions. Anticompetitive practices are broadly defined and include acts which create restrictions in commerce..."

Pohnpei State says that they would be at "too high a risk of

See "Plan?" on Page 8

**National Day of the  
People's Republic of China**  
Special Section  
Beginning on Page 11

**NEWS****A "Wall of Tree" Falls in Pohnpei Injuring One, Knocking Out Power, and Blocking the Road**

Photos by Nigel Jaynes



**Kolonia, Pohnpei** - In the early afternoon a giant tree fell across the road in Kolonia Town between the Moylan's Insurance building and the Pohnpei Campus of The College of Micronesia.

The tree fell directly onto the car of a passing motorist. Police were unable to tell us the name of the female victim but did say that she was taken to Pohnpei State Hospital with a broken leg.

The tree fell across power lines snapping two power poles like twigs and "uprooting" another. Some businesses in the area were forced to

close due to lack of power including the Bank of Guam.

The Environment Protection Agency was called to the scene to help soak up the oil that leaked from the broken transformers that hit the street.

At 3:30 p.m. on Saturday the road was still closed while workmen worked to restore power and to remove the debris. Pohnpei Utilities Company was unable at that time to say when power would be restored, only that they were still working on it but it would likely be done before sundown.

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**Bill Jaynes**  
Managing Editor

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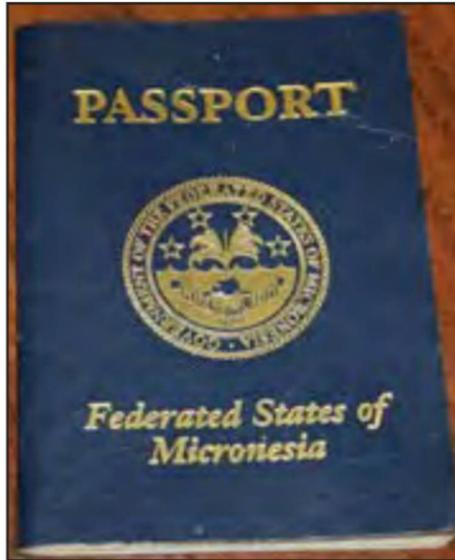
## ONPA Passport Security Measures Audit Shows Flaws

By **BILL JAYNES**  
The Kaselehlie Press

**Palikir, Pohnpei** – The Office of the National Public Auditor in Palikir, Pohnpei has released an Audit of Passport Security Measures covering fiscal year 2006 and 2007 through January 25, 2007. The introduction section quotes a Congressional Report issued by the Special Committee on FSM Washington Embassy Oversight from May of 2006. "Passport security is a matter of critical importance that affects not only FSM citizens, but also the FSM's standing in the international community."

Former FSM Washington D.C. Embassy employee Enrico Calderon was recently sentenced in the United States for the sale of passports from the FSM Embassy in Washington D.C. The FSM Department of Justice additionally has filed charges against Calderon and Ambassador Jesse Marehalau. Calderon is said to have obtained up to \$15,000 for the sale of one passport.

Bearers of FSM passports are allowed to freely work and move about the US. Apparently the black market value of an FSM passport is high.



of Immigration and Labor) did not issue passports in accordance with the passport regulations and 2) internal controls were not adequate to safeguard passports from error, fraud, misuse, or unauthorized alteration." During the audit period the department issued 10,841 passports.

said in his audit response, "I wish to state on record in a reasonable manner that the 'Draft Audit Report' represent (*sic*) the views of the FSM Public Auditors Office and not a total multiparty representation of the FSM Division of Immigration and Labor..."

ONPA in an appendix responded saying "...ONPA was established as a separate unit of the National Government to provide administrative independence from the other Branches of the Government... We provided (*sic*) the National Government with independent, objective and timely audits and inspections since the ratification of the Constitution in 1978. To further ensure that our findings and recommendations are addressed, we have forwarded copies of the report to other FSM officials who have legal oversight authority over DIL and are ultimately responsible to act on the audit findings and recommendations."

Chief Esiel in his audit response also said while speaking of the theft and sale of passports at the FSM Embassy in Washington D.C., "If FSM ONPA had responded to our 1998 request for

The ONPA audit says that, "1) DIL (Department Chief of Immigration and Labor, Mohner Esiel

See "Passport" on page 10

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## An Exhausted Congress Accomplishes Its Objectives

By **BILL JAYNES**  
The Kaselehlie Press

**Palikir, Pohnpei** – On the last day of the second regular session of the 15<sup>th</sup> Congress of the FSM which followed just days after the second special session, Senators were tired.

According to members of Congress, it wasn't the political tight-rope they walked in every session. It wasn't the fact that nearly every word they said would be recorded in the Congressional Journal, or that the words that weren't recorded in the Journal might be reported in the small FSM newspaper, "The Kaselehlie Press".

It was the countless committee meetings, the after hours wrangling, the endless shaping of legislative wording of floor amendments, oral amendments, and special statements that made the Senators understandably tired. They and their staff members have done a great deal of work in the last few weeks; work that shapes the nation.

The session ended just before noon on the 27<sup>th</sup> of September. Words were often times, contentious leading prominent and experienced Senators to offer apologies for things they may have said during the session that as one senator put it "may have been out of line."

The fourteen Senators spent a great deal of time dealing with issues of order; in what order motions must come, what rules must be suspended, whether the last suspension of rules was still in affect before a motion was made; so many rules and for the last session, so little time.

All of the time spent on procedure was to be certain that none of what Senators legislated would be overturned due to procedural errors in some court at a future date which has happened in the past.

Congress had several priorities during the last session. They

passed President Mori's Governmental Reorganization Bill, the FSM Petroleum Corporation Bill, and others during the special session.

The regular session had the budget as priority with confirmations of Presidential nominees for Cabinet positions running a close second though Congress didn't make a final decision on many of those confirmations until the final day of the regular session.

The National Petroleum Corporation had to have a Congressional resolution in place before they could act. The resolution passed enabling the Corporation to execute agreements with Mobil Oil of Micronesia, Inc.

The budget of \$35.8 million, according to the Committee on Ways and Means Chairman Dohsis Halbert was whittled down to a figure \$2 million below the amount expected for fiscal year 2008 which began on Monday, October 1. The budget bill passed with amendments.

On the final day of the regular session, Congress voted on the nominations submitted to them by President Mori. Roger Mori, a relative of the President had been nominated for the position of Secretary of the newly created Department of Resources and Development. On the last day of the session, his nomination, earlier defeated by Congress, was reconsidered. Confirmation of nominees requires an affirmative vote by 10 of the members of Congress. Mori got 9 votes in his favor, one shy of what was needed.

Robert Spegal, an American citizen who had been nominated by the President for consideration as the Secretary of Health and Social Services has a long history of health and community service in the FSM. In the public confirmation hearing

held by the committee chaired by Senator Urusemal, all of the witnesses spoke affirmatively about Spegal's capabilities.

On the last day of the Congress session the vote was split at 7 to 7 and Spegal was not confirmed. He cannot be reconsidered.

The vote for Gerson Jackson, former Lieutenant Governor of Kosrae who was nominated for the position of Assistant Secretary for Foreign Affairs also was split at 7

to 7. Moments after the vote, Senator Dion Neth made a motion to reconsider but the vote was the same.

With just a few minutes remaining before off island Senators needed to check in at the airport, Congress adjourned.

*More details on the recent Congress session will be available in the next issue of The Kaselehlie Press and on our website.*

## Tuna Commission Headquarters Is Ready for Occupancy



Photo by Bill Jaynes

FSM Vice President Alik L. Alik shares a chuckle with Andrew Wright, Executive Director of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission before the Vice President officially declared the building, built by the Chinese Government on land provided by Pohnpei State, to be open.

The Grand Opening was held on Sunday morning, September 30 from 9 to 11. The unusual scheduling was due to the participation of the Technical and Compliance Committee who are in Pohnpei for tightly scheduled meetings.

Though the program had been checked over by the Department of Foreign Affairs at least one traditional leader was offended by it and left after speaking to the gathered crowd of approximately 150 people.

Vice President Alik, in his speech said that he hoped that the Tuna Commission would still be around at the end of their 100 year lease and that there would still be Tunafishing efforts to monitor at that time.

## China Threatens Death Penalty for Copper Thieves

Agence France-Presse

9/26/2007 BEIJING — China is threatening the death penalty for people who steal copper wire, thereby destroying power lines and disrupting telecommunications, state media said Wednesday.

The stern warning comes amid a wave of cases in which people have stolen copper wire to sell to recycling businesses amid desperate demand for the metal caused by a booming economy, the China

Daily reported.

It said the Supreme Court had ruled thieves could receive the death penalty if their actions risk causing fatal accidents.

The death penalty is also an option if thieves cause blackouts that affect more than 10,000 people for more than six hours, or result in economic losses of more than one million yuan (130,000 dollars), the paper said.

In Shanghai alone, more than 30 people have been sentenced to jail terms in recent weeks for stealing copper wire, with one person condemned to seven years in jail, the newspaper reported.

China is the world's largest consumer of copper, spurred by economic growth which in 2007 is likely to hit double digits for the fifth consecutive year.

## Correction!

In issue number 21 we incorrectly identified Mr. Robert Nanpei as Samuel Pretrick in the caption on the picture accompanying the article "Reach Out Pacific Donates Medical Supplies" on page 13. We apologize for any inconvenience we caused to either Mr. Nanpei or to Mr. Pretrick.

## NEWS

# Ball is in the Court of Pacific Leaders

By **NILESH GOUNDAR**  
*Greenpeace Oceans Team Leader*

The geopolitical landscape places large ocean states of the Pacific Islands at the forefront of the impacts of climate change due to the self interest of industrialised nations, plundered fisheries from tuna-hungry but distant nations and a growing presence of the war on terrorism catapulted into our part of the world. This is of course escalated by imposed global trade standards, new health threats, border security issues, political challenges and regional worries on sovereignty.

Never has the Pacific region been so vulnerable as it is now. Just last/earlier this month our visionary Pacific church leaders met in American Samoa equally concerned about climate change impacts and the regional fisheries. The following week, the first Pacific wide tuna industry forum in PNG made it clear that sustainability is key to the future exploitation of tuna stocks (was that the Forum or us?). Rather than entice new players into the region's fisheries we need to be cutting back drastically as catches and stocks are at all time lows globally.

Thus the future of our fisheries and the effects of climate change form an undercurrent for two very important meetings happening in the Pacific. The Pacific Islands Forum officials are meeting in Tonga to decide on an agenda for the discussions for the leaders in late October. At the same time at Pohnpei in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) at the Technical meeting of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), fisheries officials, industry players and NGO partners from the Pacific and around the world will make important decisions on the management and conservation of our most valuable tuna stocks in the Pacific.

The Pacific is a diverse region that comprises some of the smallest countries in the world with many nations—rich in cultures, histories and colonial baggage—only a few meters above sea level at their highest point.

Yet despite our fragility, we large ocean states are blessed with a wide range of terrestrial and oceanic ecosystems, predominantly influenced by marine systems that can make infrastructure development difficult and environmental impacts significant. The majority of our regional populace still live in villages and rural communities either along the coast, or in the coastal plains and valleys of the larger islands.

For years, the Pacific has been romanticised as a peaceful, pristine and rather sleepy backwater, somehow removed from or even immune to the stresses of modern day and contemporary society. This picture is a gross misrepresentation of a diverse, widespread and vibrant region facing unique developmental challenges.

Being the diverse region that we are, we have been endowed with a very rare mechanism of problem solving and unity called the *Pacific Way*. The late legendary, Pacific Island leader, Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, coined the phrase to express that in spite of the continuing economic dependence on the western world, Pacific states could develop in their own way and in their own style. The Pacific Way is a form of regional and international interaction. The strength of this way lies in the character of its people, who have demonstrated throughout their history a high level of resourcefulness and resilience. Pacific peoples are well used to surviving, and eventually prospering, in the face of adversities, invasions and natural disasters. The Pacific Way is an approach that kin from industrialised nations could take a few pointers from.

Through the Auckland Declaration of April 2004 that called on the strengthening of regional cooperation and integration, and in response to the many challenges facing Pacific Island countries, Forum leaders adopted the following Vision:

Leaders believe the Pacific can, should and will be a region of peace, harmony, security and economic prosperity, so that all its people can lead free and worthwhile lives.

**We treasure the diversity of the Pacific and seek a future in which its cultures and traditions are valued, honoured and developed. We seek a Pacific region that is respected for the quality of its governance, the sustainable management of its resources, the full observance of democratic values, and its defence and promotion of human rights.**

The history of the Forum has been one of steadily growing cooperation among the countries of the region. Indeed, the Forum is one of the most successful examples anywhere of countries working together for mutual benefit. No where else do independent sovereign countries work together to share highly migratory fish stocks such as tuna, as do the 17 Pacific member countries of the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA). The Pacific has set the example for the rest of the world when it comes to managing fisheries resources at a



*“Oceaness’ and “Islandness” are what shapes our identity as Pacific peoples. Without our ocean and islands we are nothing...Mr Goundar*

regional and multi-lateral level.

There is growing evidence, however, that current levels of cooperation require much more resilience particularly where the key environmental challenges now facing the Pacific are concerned. That of climate change and collapsing tuna stocks—the Pacific's most cherished resource.

Both of these problems need to be seen and framed as ‘national and regional threats’ within the framework of ‘true security’ issues for the Pacific Way as they reduce the quality of life us citizens of the Pacific. “Oceaness’ and “Islandness” are what shapes our identity as Pacific peoples. Without our ocean and islands we are nothing.

See “Greenpeace” on page ?

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## ...Greenpeace

continued from page 5

But the same 'oceaness' and 'islandness' that should logically unite us, has been used to divide us using the very tempting carrot of money. It is understandable that our region wants to be able to develop in order to take better care of our people but the fine line is blurred once the cash-cow of natural resources and developmental possibilities becomes real. The Pacific should have remained the pearl of the oceans; pristine, beautiful, unspoilt. Instead powers outside the region are plundering our ocean with overfishing of our precious tuna stocks, using destructive fishing methods such as bottom trawling, drawing the region into a politicized war on whaling which really is not our battle as well as leaving us to sink or swim from climate change impacts and economic threats from the related acidification of the ocean.

Scientific evidence abounds that climate change is human-induced and the fury of its effects are being felt. The King Tides in Kiribati; the relocation of the Carterets people of PNG; the violent and more frequent cyclones, swift weather extremes, the disappearing sources of fresh water to name a few. We don't need science to tell us the why's and how's. Members of our Pacific village live this livelihood danger daily.

Tuvalu, four metres above water at its highest point, is already talking about seeking environmental refugee status with our bigger neighbours, Australia and New Zealand.

Tuna is to the Pacific what oil is to the Middle East. It is common knowledge that as fish stocks around the world continue to collapse fishing fleets are moving in great numbers to the last relatively healthy fishing grounds in the world; the Pacific. The greatest threat to the Pacific's tuna fisheries is overfishing. As more foreign vessels take unsustainable amounts of tuna, the economic stability and health of Pacific Island communities is under threat. It is even in the interests of the fishing fleets to cut back. Their operational margins are pushed to negative when they have to spend more time and effort to catch the same amount of fish.

Today in the Pacific, more than 90% of our tuna is caught by the fleets of Japan, Korea, Taiwan, China, USA, Philippines, and the European Union. In their race to catch more fish, these Distant Water Fishing fleets use ships with large-scale fishing technology such as purse seining and long-lining.

Not only are these methods wasteful, but it means that most of the profits leave the Pacific. Each year industrial fishers make over US\$3 billion from the Pacific's fish resources. Out of this, Pacific nations receive around 6% mainly from licensing and access fees a grossly unfair sum for their principal economic resource.

We are only as strong as our weakest link. Forum decisions are based on consensus decision making in which standard setting and norm-based behaviour have taken root. There are signs, though, that as issues of traditional "high politics" become more salient within the region, consensus could become strained.

For example, as commendable as regional cooperation and consensus has been to date, self interest and the asser-

tuna licensing as a main source of government revenue, climate change and rising sea levels is the one issue that truly binds the majority of members of the Pacific Village.

Yet, like Nero playing his fiddle whilst Rome burned to the ground, Australia and the USA continue to snub the Kyoto Protocol.

The Kyoto Protocol (1) to the United

politics or business as usual, members of the Pacific Village worry for their futures.

"Aspirational targets", which were promoted by Australia at APEC and the United States at the 'major emitter's meeting' in Washington D.C. will not be effective in securing the emission reductions required. History shows this unequivocally and it is why the international community agreed on *binding* emission cuts - for industrialized nations - in Kyoto in 1997.

Our small island nations are at the forefront of climate change consequences. Historically, we are the least responsible for the damage done to the atmosphere and our environment but, we will be the first to pay.

We, as Pacific Islanders must demand responsibility and precautionary stewardship of ourselves and more importantly, of the big industrialised nations who have created their wealth at the hefty price of environmental degradation.

We need to cut global emissions by at least 50% by 2050.

The United Nations Climate Change Meeting in Bali must set the world on a course to stay as far below a two degree Celsius temperature rise as possible. This requires the Pacific Village to strongly advocate for:

- reduced global emissions by 2015;
- A deep *cut* in emissions, led by developed countries, who must commit to at least 30% cuts by 2020 and virtually complete decarbonisation by 2050.
- A massive new Clean Technology Deployment Fund system to be funded by the developed countries aimed at switching to clean, efficient, renewable technology in developing countries.
- A Deforestation Reduction Mechanism that provides the necessary financing to drastically reduce deforestation within the next 15 years. The reductions from forest protection must be *additional* to cuts in industrial emissions.
- An adaptation track with adaptation financing on a much larger scale based on a deeper analysis of adaptation needs especially of small island countries like those in our region.
- This package to be agreed to by 2009 at the latest.

As Germany's Chancellor Merkel said at the G8 meeting Heiligendamm: "We cannot choose the targets". Nature defines the targets and the timetable needed to avoid dangerous climate change; and it is clear that there is no time for diversions or dead ends.

Our Pacific leaders will soon have the opportunity to strengthen regional cooperation yet again at the PIF leaders meeting in Tonga in October. What must be on the agenda is a firm climate change position and radical solutions to the tuna crisis facing our Pacific Village.

Unwavering leadership in the best interests of the peoples of the Pacific Village is now mandatory.

The ball is in the court of Pacific Island leaders to decide on the future of the Pacific peoples livelihoods.



tion of sovereignty by individual states over regional resources such as tuna is undermining the sustainability of the stocks leading to further plundering of the Pacific by distant water fishing states and fleets. Given that a weakness in one country is, in terms of our Vision, a weakness for us all, there is no doubt in our minds that the future prosperity of the region will depend on the Pacific living and breathing our undeniable interconnectedness, and finding new and creative means of harnessing collective capacities. New thinking on the relationships between sovereign states may be required so that self-interest does not undermine what is the common heritage of the Pacific..

In regards to our Pacific Village tuna fishery, Greenpeace recommends:

- A regional commitment to reducing tuna fishing by 50% across the board
- The urgent establishment of a "regional fisheries insurance mechanism" such as the establishment of a marine reserve in an enclosed high seas area bound by Palau, FSM, Papua New Guinea and Indonesia
- Banning transshipments and refueling on the high seas
- A regional request for United States of America (USA), Australia, New Zealand and French surveillance assistance for enforcement in our waters

As contentious as the issue of tuna fishing may be within the Pacific Islands nations due to economic factors for some of the smaller island countries that have

Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change strengthens the international response to climate change. Adopted by consensus at the third session of the Conference of the Parties (COP3) in December 1997, it contains legally binding emissions targets for developed (Annex I) countries for the post-2000 period.

By arresting and reversing the upward trend in greenhouse gas emissions that started in these developed countries 150 years ago, the Protocol promises to move the international community one step closer to achieving the Convention's ultimate objective of preventing "dangerous anthropogenic [man-made] interference with the climate system".

The developed countries commit themselves to reducing their collective emissions of six key greenhouse gases by at least 5%.

Each country's emissions target must be achieved by the period 2008-2012. This is what is referred to within the Protocol as the "first commitment period". The UN Climate Change meeting in Bali from December 3-14, 2007 will be discussing the second commitment period post 2012.

The United States and Australia have dilly dallied over cuts and targets and have set for themselves some ambiguous targets which they are trying to push onto the global agenda. In doing so, they are totally disrespecting the collective wisdom of the global leaders that decided on the Kyoto Protocol. Whilst they play

## Graduation of the Micronesia Public Safety Academy

### National Police Press Release

Over 400 people attended the Graduation of 40 police officers from the Micronesia Public Safety Academy last Friday morning.

The Graduation ceremony, held at the PATS (Pohnpei Agriculture and Trade School) in Madolenihmw was the culmination of 12 weeks of intensive training for 40 police officers from around the FSM.

With the tragedies which later occurred on Friday afternoon in Pohnpei, there was never a better time to have 40 more skilled police officers on our streets.

Special guest speakers at the Graduation ceremony included FSM Vice President, His Excellency Alik Alik and FSM Chief Justice Andon Amaraich. Other speakers included Chief Joe Roby (on behalf of the FSM Chiefs of Police), Mr Douglas McCaffery of the Pacific Regional Policing Initiative (PRPI) and Captain Linoi Amor of the FSM National Police. Captain Amor was the Academy Commander in Charge.

During the speeches delivered to the assembled gathering, graduating students were reminded of their responsibilities to provide high quality services to the community. They were also advised to remember the training provided and apply those newly acquired skills when they enter back into operational patrolling.

There was repeated recognition by all guest speakers of the benefits to the FSM communities for police personnel to receive training such as was provided during the Academy. A number of speakers expressed the need to hold further training academies in the future.

In addition to the 40 Graduation



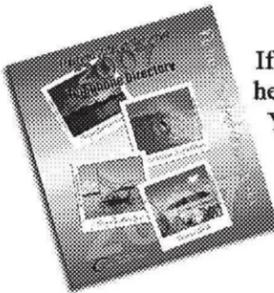
Olivia David one of three female students at the Academy was present with the Investigation Award presented by FBI Special Agent Jim Barry.

Photo by Bill Jaynes

Certificates issued to all participating students on the Academy program, 22 special awards were presented by invited guests including Her Excellency Miriam Hughes (US Ambassador), Her Excellency Liu Fei, (Ambassador of the People's Republic of China), Ms Janet Whitaker (First Secretary of the Australian Embassy), Mr Shinichi Hamada (resident representative of JICA Micronesia), and FBI Special Agent Jim Barry.

The Valedictorian of the academy was Patrol Officer Hilario Junior Bermanis of the FSM National Police. Officer Kentrickson Manuel, also of the FSM National Police was the class Salutatorian.

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## ...Plan?

*continued from page 1*

future antitrust liability” because of the five year exclusive supply agreement with Mobil contained in the agreement.

Another reason stated for the Legislature’s recommendation that the documents should not be signed regards environmental impact and the potential problem of releasing Mobil from environmental damage liability that may or may not have arisen from their operations in Dekehtik.

The letter says that “releases of Petroleum products into the soil have occurred and that the land ‘has contaminated subsurface conditions to the extent described’” in the report. Because the Legislature has not received a copy of the “ESA” report they can’t tell the extent of the problem but are being asked in the agreement to hold Mobil harmless for any environmental damage. ESA was not defined in the Speaker’s letter but by the context we take it to mean “Environmental Site Assessment”

The Speaker lists as another reason a concern that “Pohnpei might not get full benefits” under the agreement. It quotes a line in the agreement concerning “equitable terms for all customers of the Corporation. As an example the Speaker says that “the proposed fuel supply agreement gives Pohnpei the lowest transportation cost from Guam to the fuel farm, but Pohnpei might not receive that benefit if the Corporation evens out the price to help other States.”

He also points to the poor credit history of some customers of Mobil in the past. He is concerned that political pressure may force the Corporation to extend credit to less responsible customers. In that event “Pohnpei might end up subsidizing fuel use in other States instead of getting the full benefit of the transaction.” In the worst case scenario, Speaker Pelep says that “Pohnpei might lose its fuel supply.”

Yet another stated reason was legal liability for annual fuel quantities agreed to but not purchased. It’s called a liquidated damages

provision. He says that a provision like this could run into fees of millions of dollars and that the current Mobil contract does not contain any liquidated damages provision.

The last reason that Speaker Pelep brought to the Governor’s attention is the “inability of Pohnpei to bring competition to the fuel market.” The Speaker says that even though the law establishing the public corporation has no provision to operate as a monopoly the effect of the agreement with Mobil practically causes it to be a monopoly for the first five years. He says that other companies have expressed interest in bringing fuel to Pohnpei and that they might be able to compete for Pohnpei’s fuel business in the near future. Pohnpei, because of the exclusive supply agreement with Mobil and the liquid damages provision no competitor would be able to enter the market for the next five years.

“While the solution as opposed by the National Fuels Task Force is not right for Pohnpei, we must continue to work to find the best possible answer to our energy problem. The Legislature stands ready to work with the Executive to find a Pohnpeian solution to this problem.

On Wednesday, the 26<sup>th</sup> of September, Congress voted to agree to Mobil’s terms. Former President, now Senator Joseph Urusemal of Yap, before the vote on the resolution entered into the record a response to the two States of Yap and Pohnpei.

The text of his speech follows:

“Mr. Speaker. A few days ago this Congress adopted the Standing Committee Report prior to its passage of the Bill establishing the national fuel corporation.

“In that report it was clearly stated that the immediate purpose for the corporation was “simply to provide the ‘legal entity’ to finalize agreements with MOMI”, arrange financing and take ownership of assets. The secondary purpose was to operate the fuel storage and distribution facilities for some interim period pending divestment of its assets to the States.

“I note that at least a couple of our great states, including my own state of Yap, would have

preferred the corporation bill to have allowed the States the opportunity to assume the ownership and control of the MOMI fuel facilities at a time of their own choosing.

“However, because of the nature of the negotiations with Mobil Oil and with the bank for financing, that was simply not possible at this time without placing the whole Fuel Task Force initiative at risk. During the hearing process there was testimony from the FSM energy advisor and from persons actively involved in those negotiations that any “splintering” of the four state operation would complicate the pending agreements with MOMI, including the fuel supply agreement and cause delays that could place continued short term fuel supplies to all of the states at risk.

“I wish to state that I, for one, support the concept of State ownership and control of the various distribution facilities under a unified fuel supply contract and will work to accomplish that as soon as the opportunity arises. At this point, however, I must continue to rely on the words of the Report adopted by this Congress:

- “The Committee believes that the current Bill is drafted in such a way as to maximize future flexibility regarding the state ownership and control of assets and operations while promoting the immediate goal of securing a steady, secure and reasonably priced source of fuel for all of the States of the FSM. It must be cautious of any provisions that may compromise the commercial viability of the Corporation during its existence.

- The Committee considers the adoption of (the Corporation) to be only a “next step” in assuring future energy supplies for the nation. With the immediate need for the creation of a legal entity accomplished, this Committee and Congress will have the opportunity in future months to give further attention to the specific visions and expectations of each of the states with regard to the future of the proposed FSM Petroleum Corporation.

“I would like to urge this Congress to stand by those words.

“During my time in that other branch of this government I would occasionally find it helpful to think of this great nation

in terms of a fine piece of furniture with each of its four strong legs individually carved by the centuries of experiences and traditions of each of the states. Those four legs hold up a yet unscarred top upon which sits the future of Micronesia.

“Each of the legs is different from the other but they all work together to support the top. Take any one of them away, and the table needs a wall to lean against to be stable.

“Any one of the legs might stand on its own without the top to hold it upright, but with the slightest breeze will wobble and fall.

“All five pieces together make a fine and strong piece of furniture, but individually, we are just pieces of wood.

“Nowhere is this imagery more vivid than with this country’s efforts to advance the process of taking control of its own energy future.

“At this moment, this country is at a crucial crossroads in that process and more than ever we must all stand together.

“The resolution approving the agreements is a second step in that process and will give this Congress the opportunity to live up to its promise to the States in the future by giving further attention to the specific visions and expectations of each of the states with regard to the future of the proposed FSM Petroleum Corporation.

“I urge passage of this resolution and call upon all of our fine states to join with the national government in this process to gain control of our own energy future.”

The Senators and the gallery gave him a hearty round of applause for his speech.

Without Pohnpei and Yap’s participation, the petroleum corporation cannot put into place the mechanisms to begin to do the work Congress wants them to do.

National government officials say that the September 30 date announced for a “pull out” by Mobil is a work deadline and that there is still some time to deal with the controversial issues brought to the fore by Speaker Pelep.

## ...Tragedy

continued from page 1

rupt a meeting that was taking place involving those responsible for the fire trucks and so they were not notified until 45 minutes later when the meeting ended.

Ray Verg-In, math teacher at

He told Verg-In that he thought his heart had been punctured. Verg-In pulled out a pocket knife he'd just sharpened the night before and cut the restraining harness from Pereda and checked for punctures. Pereda said that Verg-In kept him talking and in focus. "He kept telling me, 'You're going to make it', and I did!" He shook his head, "I don't know how."



COM, was the first on the scene and witnessed the crash. He said that he was a passenger in the car driven by his wife which enabled him to see more than if he had been driving.

He said that he saw the helicopter clear the high tree line and begin to take a dive. Both rotors appeared to be functioning and there didn't appear to be any problem with the helicopter other than the fact that it was heading straight down to the ground at 70 to 80 miles per hour. He said that at the last moment the pilot seemed to try to recover but it was too late.

Verg-In said that he was once a pilot and thought that the pilot had possibly "lost the horizon" and accidentally driven the machine into the ground.

He said that he ran to the crash site and yelled, "Is anyone still alive?" He heard someone yelling for help and sprang to action. Since the helicopter was high on the retaining wall he ran to the gate of "Club Flamingo", rolled underneath, and ran the rest of the way to the crash site.

Pilot, Sammy Villamena was nearly dead by the time he arrived but the passenger, Cliff Pereda was coherent enough to hold a conversation and to have turned off the helicopter's engine. Pereda is an engineer for Tropic Helicopters.

Pereda, in considerable pain said from his hospital bed on Saturday that if it hadn't been for Verg-in he would likely have gone into shock and may have died. He said that something was forced against his back and that he couldn't breathe.

Pereda said that when they passed over the tree line he heard a loud "whoof" sound as if one of the engines had flamed out. Just after that, Villamena tried to make an emergency landing. Pereda said that he knew from the angle they were heading to the ground that they weren't going to make it. He said, "I don't know. It all just happened so fast."

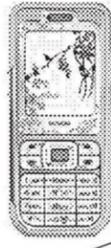
Police and rescue crews were fast and efficient, arriving on the scene only moments after the crash and handling the disaster as if it was something they do every day. Their training showed at the scene. Perhaps the only error that some people on the scene commented about was not setting up a perimeter to keep onlookers back. At one point, police had to escort sixty or seventy young people dressed in PICS High School maroon out of the Flamingo parking lot where they all had a clear view of Villamena's twisted body inside the cockpit.

This is the second death of a Tropic Helicopters employee in the last few weeks. Police sources say that several weeks ago, a Korean engineer who was working on one of the helicopters onboard a fishing vessel died. It is uncertain whether the engineer had a heart attack and fell from the top deck to the bottom or whether he lost his footing on the rolling vessel and plunged to the deck.

Pereda said that he thought his leg had been broken but doctors at the hospital took an x-ray and found no break. The very lucky Pereda has broken ribs but is quite alive and thankful for the fact.

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# NEWS

## ...Passport

*continued from page 3*

an audit, and under assumption, would that have controlled the situation for (*sic*) happening?"

ONPA said, "It is Management's responsibility, not the auditor's, to design and implement adequate internal control measures to ensure that DIL's resources (for example, passports) are properly safeguarded from fraud, waste and abuse and to ensure that relevant laws and regulations are followed."

Chief Esiel said that the results of the audit were irrelevant because the passports being audited were the "old passports" [DIL recently upgraded to machine readable passports] and the results of the audit no longer apply. Further, the audit was conducted during a renovation and that they "simply did not have the secured area to properly store cancelled passports, applications for passports already processed, among other passport administrative matters."

ONPA said, "All seventeen (17) weaknesses reported in the three findings remained unresolved as of the date of our exit conference with the Chief of DIL on August 9, 2007. This was more than five months after the completion of the renovation on the passport area and installation of the issuance system to issue MRP [Machine Readable Passport] booklets on March 2007.

Chief Esiel said that DIL is "understaffed and under budgeted and we are trying our very best to be in compliance with all the rules and policy directions that can make our work efficient while safeguarding our passports."

ONPA encouraged the Executive Budget Review Committee and the FSM Congress to ensure that adequate resources are provided to DIL.

For the audit, 102 passports were chosen at random as a sample in order for the auditors to make their determinations. Applications for over 24% of the sample could not be found. Auditors found that filing was substandard. They observed "that passport applications, which were waiting to be scanned, were not properly filed and were stored on the floor."

The audit says that prudent Government practices require logbooks to track passport applications re-

ceived (logged in) and passports distributed or sent to other locations (logged out). Of the 102 passports reviewed 81 percent of the applications were not logged in, 60 percent of the passports were not logged out, and 57 percent were neither logged in nor logged out.

Under an April 2006 directive issued by Chief Esiel all DIL offices are required to maintain passport logbooks to track movement of passports and applications between the offices.

DIL Field Offices in Pohnpei and Yap did not maintain logbooks and the Central office didn't log in passports received from the DIL Field Offices nor did it log out passports sent to the field offices for final distribution.

Since 24 of the 102 passports reviewed had no locatable application auditors were left 78 passports to audit for a review into the matter of whether or not passport regulations were followed. 54% of the remaining 78 passports were not properly certified for proof of citizenship.

In 100 percent of the test cases for renewals of passports there was no documentation that the original passport was surrendered to DIL. Auditors say that if expired passport booklets are not given to DIL, the booklet could be altered and used by unauthorized persons.

33% of the test cases for replacement passports had no affidavit to support the claim of a lost passport. The Passport Officer told auditors that there is no limit on the number of times an individual can apply to replace a lost passport.

62% of the passport applications had no original payment receipt attached so Auditors were unable to determine whether or not the fees were ever paid.

Holders of diplomatic passport holders have special privileges when they travel. There is a very specific list of FSM citizens who are eligible to receive diplomatic passports. The list includes dependents of an FSM Ambassador but only if they are living with the Ambassador. Three of the diplomatic passports reviewed in the audit were issued to the niece and nephews of an Ambassador who listed on their applications addresses that were over 2000 miles away from the Ambassador's duty station.

The FSM specifically prohibits dual citizenship. The auditor said that the Republic of Palau has regula-

tions in place to specifically enforce their similar prohibition of dual citizenship but that no such regulations, policies, or procedures are in place in the FSM to enforce the dual citizenship prohibition. A person could, under current procedure, claim citizenship in two countries and be issued a passport in both countries.

The Passport Officer in Palikir could under the current procedure "perpetrate and conceal errors or irregularities in the normal course of her duties." Auditors did not say that she had done so. They only said that because she is the sole employee responsible for nearly every aspect of passport issuance she could be tempted to do so and could possibly conceal the actions that might make it possible.

Pictures taken during the audit process showed open cardboard boxes filled to the brim with blank FSM passports. Unauthorized employees of DIL were allowed free access to the office where passports are stored.

FSM code requires the Chief of DIL to submit an *Annual Report on the Passport Revolving Fund* no later than 30 days after the end of each fiscal year to the Secretary of the Department of Justice. The Secretary of DOJ is then required to sub-

mit the report within 30 additional days to the President and Congress.

The report said that Chief Esiel told them that since he became Chief of DIL in 1998, he had never submitted the report.

A legal opinion issued on January 15, 2007 by the Department of Justice said that neither the Department of Foreign Affairs nor its Missions have the authority to receive or distribute valid permits. According to the audit "DIL continues to forward passport booklets to the Foreign Missions and Consulates," an illegal act.

An April 2006 directive from the Chief set a new requirement that all FSM passports should be delivered by mail service. Certified mail is no longer an option for the FSM so there is no paper trail showing that passports arrived or that the recipient was the correct person.

The Office of the National Public Auditor committed to perform another audit on passport security measures in 6 to 9 months.

Readers can access the complete audit text online at [www.fsmpublicauditor.fm/audit.htm](http://www.fsmpublicauditor.fm/audit.htm) or by accessing the Kaselehlie Press website at [www.bild-art.de/kpress](http://www.bild-art.de/kpress) and following FSM weblinks.

## Rotary Club of Pohnpei Awards \$5000 in Scholarships



Through fund raising efforts like the ubiquitous "Rotary Quiz Night" the Rotary Club of Pohnpei was able to award the largest scholarship amount they have ever been able to offer. Ten outstanding Pohnpei students received \$500 each for their schooling in this year's presentation.

Scholarship recipients were as follows:

*Samuel Foulchag  
Charlene Arthur*

*Michelle Anton  
Jay Pong  
Vitor Nabeyan II  
Angie Tretnoff  
Strickson Fredrick  
Stephanie Fredrick  
Galliant James  
Jerome Jacob*

In The photo above Rotary members on the back road stand proudly with five of the scholarship recipients of this year's scholarship awards.

# THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

## Constructing for the 2008 Olympics

By **RONG Jiaoqiao**  
*China Features*

As Beijing prepares to host athletes throughout the world to participate in the 2008 Olympic Games, the city's Olympic new look begins to unfold.

Of the 31 new and refurbished venues for the Olympics, the iconic "Bird's Nest" National Stadium and the "Water Cube" Aquatics Center are the landmark showpieces.

The main stadium for the Games, the National Stadium is located at the Olympic Green, east of the city's north-south axis and to the north, covering an area of 258,000 square meters (63.8 acres).

Its twisting structure, which gives the 91,000-seat stadium its nickname, is made of 45,000 tons of steel. It will host the opening and closing ceremonies, track and field events and football finals.

The "Bird's Nest" has the world's most advanced screening and omnidirectional systems and mobile seating. It will be used for large sports events, conventional competitions and non-competitive events as well as provide wide-ranging entertainment and sporting facilities to residents after the Games.

The glittering National Aquatics Center is another highlight of the Olympic Green. It covers an area of more than 65,000 square meters (16.1 acres) and boasts 17,000 seats. The center will be a venue for swimming, diving, synchronized swimming and wa-

ter polo games during the Games. After the Games, the center will become a water recreation center for the public.

Together, the two structures are the heart of the 2008 Games layout and reflect the Chinese philosophy of harmonious balance. The steel stadium is circular and red hued. The water-covered swimming center is square and blue. Fire and water, masculine and feminine. An aerial photograph of the site reveals the two key Olympic venues forming a giant *yin* and *yang* symbol.

The north-south city axis, which runs through Tian'anmen Square, the Forbidden City and the Drum and Bell Towers, perfectly dissects the two modern landmarks, which are born from a mix of deep-rooted Chinese culture and free-flowing modern ideas.

Environmentally friendly technology and materials have been used to construct the new venues and 69 new energy "schemes" have been implemented, including the use of solar, geothermal, waste water, wind and other sources.

Of the 31 Beijing venues, 12 are new, 11 are older buildings being refurbished and eight are temporary structures. Except for the National Stadium due to be completed next March, all the venues will be completed by the end of the year, with a total of 300,000 migrant workers making up the construction squad.



Night scene of the National Stadium, which is also known as "Bird's Nest" and functions as the main stadium for the 2008 Olympics. It will host the opening and closing ceremonies, track and field events and football finals.



Construction site of the National Conference Center, a venue for the 2008 Olympic Games. Photo by Luo Xiaoguang

# THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

## Chinese Contemporary Art Comes out of the Shadow

By **ZHAN Yan**  
China Features

Yue Minjun enjoys laughing at the world. He paints himself on canvas: a group of Yue's laughing during military exercises, laughing while flying on backs of geese and laughing at historic world events.

The 44-year-old Yue has a reason to laugh in the real world now. His painting, "The Pope" – a giggling Yue dressed as a Pope – sold for 2.14 million pounds, or over 30 million yuan, at Sotheby's London auction in June 2007, setting a new record for Chinese contemporary art piece.

The last record holder before was Liu Xiaodong, whose painting "The New Migrants of the Three Gorges" sold for 22 million yuan at Beijing Poly International Auction in November 2006.

Chinese contemporary art has taken off in the international art world. Yue is not the only Chinese avant-garde artist selling at international auctions; others include Zhang Xiaogang, Fang Lijun, Liu Xiaodong and Yang Shaobin.

The rise of Chinese contemporary art took many by surprise. Just 20 years ago, today's big-name artists were described by their neighbors as "mang liu", or jobless loafers, moving from their hometowns to illegally live in big cities like Beijing.

To escape their neighbors' distrustful eyes, during the early 1990s many artists moved to a village near the Yuanmingyuan (the Old Summer Palace) in northern suburban Beijing, where the rents were lower and they could live as a group.

"We were a headache for local police, who thought we were troublemakers. They just didn't want us to live there (the Yuanmingyuan), but had no reason to get rid of us so they kept coming to our homes. It was hard to concentrate on painting," recalls Yue in his spacious studio in Songzhuang Township.

Like Yue, many artists are now living in Songzhuang after being driven out of the Yuanmingyuan area in the early 1990s. In fact, about 1,500 artists from all over the country have moved to Songzhuang since 1994, taking the town as their home. The town in Tongzhou district in the eastern suburbs of Beijing has become a leading base for Chinese contemporary art.

"You can't imagine how life has changed," says Yang Wei, a lead-



Photo Provided by Yue Minjun

Yue Minjun with his laughing self images at his spacious studio in Songzhuang in suburban Beijing, 1997.

ing art critic who came to public attention with his sarcastic paintings of the People's Bank of China. "If our electricity meter is broken, the local authority immediately sends people to repair it. In the past, they would have tried to drive us away."

Chinese contemporary art has blossomed since 1979 after China's reform and opening-up drive. It boomed from long years of isolation from the international contemporary art scene, which sprang up after 1945.

Few aspects of modern Chinese life better characterize the nation's continental drift away from its collective past to a more individualistic future.

"The country's management mode has changed. During the planned economy era, it was the elite powers who decided what the people should do and say," Yue recalls.

"The people should all make steel because the country needed steel or should weave cloth because of a shortage of cloth. Society was run from top to bottom."

"Now a lot special creation starts from a basic individual. The creation grows and then gets accepted

by the mainstream and changes the people's thinking just like Chinese contemporary art's trajectory."

Contemporary art has transformed the country's physical landscape too. It has formed several cultural landmarks out of dilapidated plants or reclusive villages in Beijing such as the 798 Plant, Jiuchang (Brewer Plant), Fangcaodi (Fresh Grassland), Suojiacun Village and Songzhuang Township. The centers in the other parts of the country include the Moganshan No. 50 on the Suzhou River in Shanghai, the Tank Storehouse Art District in Chongqing and the Blue Roof Art Center in Chengdu, all places densely populated with studios and galleries.

"These communities reveal the true state of Chinese contemporary art – seemingly marginalized, but actually vigorous," says Li Feng, director of Chinese oil on canvas department at Beijing Huachen Auctions.

Since the Star Show in 1979, which marked the launch of China's contemporary art, new platforms have mushroomed. Since 2000, these have included the biennales at Shanghai,

Chengdu and Guangzhou, Li says.

Yang Wei believes the sudden rise of contemporary art, from the underground to the spotlight, is the result of the continuous economic growth and social reforms in China that make people more open-minded.

"Chinese contemporary artists have two advantages. On the one hand, the outside world wants to know China and the artists are important channels for telling the world China's stories. On the other hand, China wants to show the world something new besides the Great Wall and the Forbidden City."

International collectors quickly focus on countries with long histories and rapidly changing societies, such as India and China.

"China's unique experience is the attraction of its contemporary art. The country is absorbing Western cultures against a backdrop of a culture with thousands of years of history. The country is changing like never before in history and the future is even more unpredictable," Yang says.

Yue believes "creativity" is the charm of Chinese contemporary art. "Every artist is trying to express his individual experience and thought."

But not all artists are reveling in the newfound prosperity.

Avant-garde artist Jiao Yingqi says, "Society is already talking about money all the time. Now you are also talking about contemporary art after learning it sells well. Contemporary art came into being as a rebellion against capitalism, but now it seems quite satisfied with capitalism. Criticism of society and capitalism should be the core value of contemporary art, but the core value is fading."

Critic Huang Heqing says in his book "Cultural Conspiracy" that Chinese contemporary art is actually "Western art made in China". The booming interest is a form of "cultural invasion" and the prosperity is almost the same as that in the former Soviet Union.

Despite the worries, most artists concentrate on creating their own styles. Many artists have their own signature theme or style, such as the old photos on canvas by Zhang Xiaogang, the harmless hooligan-like men with shaved heads by Fang Lijun and the red-hued violence depicted by Yang Shaobin.

"Every artist has in his mind an individual style. It's the theme of contemporary art and also the key," says Yang Shaobin.

# THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

## Combating Climate Change: China Goes on the Offensive

By DING Yimin  
China Features

Chinese President Hu Jintao and a group of other state leaders were pictured wearing open-necked shirts with short sleeves, rather than their normal jackets and ties when attending a high-profile conference at the Party School of the Communist Party of China Central Committee on June 25 of this year.

The less formal attire wasn't just for their own comfort. China's leaders are trying to set an example for all the office workers to dress in light, casual clothing in summer in order to reduce the use of air conditioners. The State Council, or cabinet, ordered in June that air-conditioning units in most office buildings be set no cooler than 26 degrees Celsius.

"As a developing country, China tries to shoulder more responsibilities in addressing the issue of climate change and reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions," says Lu Xuedu, deputy director of the Global Environmental Affairs Office of the Ministry of Science and Technology.

In China's National Climate Change Program issued on June 4, the government pledged to restructure the economy, promote clean energy technologies and improve energy efficiency.

With the new program, the nation has opted not to hide behind the fact that the Kyoto Protocol frees developing countries from the obligation to reduce GHG emissions, said Ma Kai, minister in charge of the National Development and Reform Commission.

### An Imminent Threat

"Climate change has begun to take its toll in China in recent years, and we shouldn't wait till it is too late to take action," says Lu Xuedu.

Since the mid-1980s, China has experienced 19 warm winters. In 2006, the average temperature for winter hit 9.92 degrees Celsius, the highest since 1951, according to statistics from the National Meteorological Center.

Lu points out that if climate change remains unchecked, the output of China's major crops including wheat, rice and corn will drop by up to 37 percent in the second half of this century. Global warming will also reduce the river levels, and lead to more droughts and floods. And water supply in western China will fall short of demand by up to 20 billion cubic meters from 2010 to 2030.

Climate change also presents a major threat to ecologically vulnerable areas such as the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, says Qin Dahe, an expert in glaciers, who is also an academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS).

"The glaciers on the plateau have been melting faster in recent decades," he said. If the speed of the temperature rise fails to slow down, he warns, the total area of glaciers on the plateau will shrink to 100,000 square kilometres in 2030 from 500,000 square kilometres in 1995.

Since many major rivers in Asia come



A high-energy consuming, high-pollutant power plant in northwest China's Gansu Province being torn down on May 16 of 2007

from the plateau, this shrinkage might result in water shortages for more than one billion people in Asia.

Liu Jingshi, a researcher with the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau Research Institute of the CAS, adds the plateau has also softened as global warming melts the permafrost.

Liu says that the melting permafrost has already flooded some of the Tibetan herders' families, and will become even more dangerous to them if the temperature continues to rise.

### International Collaborations

The per-capita emissions of greenhouse gas in China stand at 3.66 tons, less than one third the level of developed nations such as the Netherlands, said Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang at a press conference in late June.

As a developing country, China is not obliged to meet targets set by the Kyoto Protocol, under which most industrialized countries are required to reduce gas emissions by an average of 5.2 percent below the 1990 levels from 2008 to 2012.

Despite low per-capita emissions, Qin says, the Chinese government has placed great emphasis on climate change and has employed effective measures to cut emissions and their negative impacts.

The spokesman called on the international community to strengthen cooperation and help more countries embark on the road of clean development that both protects the environment and eco-systems and ensures the fulfilment of their development goals.

"China is still in the process of industrialization, and has the potential to become one of the world's leaders in reducing GHG if proper technologies can be adopted before the industrial facilities are built," said Dr Jason Blackstock, a researcher at Harvard University.

He says that developed nations should also take the responsibility to help China and other developing countries by providing the advanced technologies needed for reducing GHG through international collaborations.

### Finding Alternatives

To actively address the issue of climate

change, China released the National Climate Change Program.

It is estimated if all the objectives prescribed in the program are achieved – on hydro and nuclear power generation, upgrading of thermal power generation, facilitation of coal-bed-gas development, the use of renewable energy resources such as wind power, solar power and terrestrial heat, forestation and energy-saving – the world's most populous country will emit 1.5 billion tons less carbon dioxide by 2010 while still continuing to grow rapidly.

China also issued the General Work Plan for Energy Conservation and Pollutant Discharge Reduction, under which the government pledged to adhere to its plan for energy efficiency and to reduce major pollutant discharges by 10 percent by the year 2010.

The work plan criticized some government departments for their poor awareness of the importance of energy efficiency and pollutant reduction.

The central government will reform the mechanism of evaluating local governments and their leaders by including the implementations of energy-efficiency and emission-reduction tasks into their performances, according to the work plan.

It also contains instructions to government departments to work out detailed measures for this reform.

Units, branches and bodies of the central government are asked to take the lead in procuring energy-efficient, water-efficient and environment-friendly products, such as air conditioners, computers, printers and displays.

The state will encourage and direct financial institutions to enhance credit support for environment-protection and pollution-reduction projects. Preferential tax policies will be offered for such projects.

The government will also reform pricing mechanisms for resource products, such as refined oil, natural gas and electricity, and restrict exports of high-energy consuming and heavy-polluting products.

Energy use in high-energy consuming industries, such as steel, non-ferrous metals, petrochemicals and cement production, will be optimised to realize energy-

saving targets of 50 million tons of standard coal in 2007 and 240 million tons by 2010.

The government has also taken action to reduce the use of fossil fuels.

Non-fossil fuels will account for 30 percent of China's energy consumption in 2050, compared with the current 10 percent, says Yan Luguang, a researcher at the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

Even though China's per capita greenhouse gas emissions are lower than countries like the United States or Australia, its heavy reliance on coal makes it a major polluter and a major contributor to emissions that cause climate change.

By 2050, the burning of coal will account for a much smaller proportion in China's energy consumption compared with 70 percent now, says Yan.

Oil consumption would contribute around 20 percent of the total and reach 800 million tons in 2050, 75 percent of which would be imported from foreign countries.

As China's energy demands continue to grow, a sufficient oil supply is critical to the country's energy security.

The demand for natural gas, hydro-power and nuclear power will grow and by 2050 solar energy, wind energy and biomass energy will account for 15 percent of the nation's total energy consumption.

### Scientific Support

Aiming for a green and hi-tech 2008 Olympics, China has designed the Olympic venues to be as environment friendly as possible, with "green" materials, and energy saving and water recycling systems.

The Olympic stadiums have also introduced solar and wind energy and other new energies, which are vital in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The Ministry of Science and Technology and 14 other government departments in June jointly issued a special action plan for science and technology for China to deal with climate change, providing scientific support to the National Climate Change Program.

China invested 2.5 billion yuan (330 million U.S. dollars) in the research and development for climate change control during its 10<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan period (2001-2005).

In the 11<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan period (2006-2010), says Minister of Science and Technology Wang Gang, the government will more in this field, with 4.6 billion yuan (610 million U.S. dollars) already put into a number of projects.

The nation must consider developing a "low-carbon economy" and a "carbon-absorbing economy", says Wang. A low-carbon economy is a low energy-consuming and low pollution-based economy.

Other methods, such as optimising energy structure, improving energy efficiency and developing clean and renewable energy, should also be taken to deal with the climate change, he says.

# THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

## Chinese Manufacturers Attempt to Ditch "Cheap" Image

By **FAN Ling, YU Zheng**  
**China Features**

It's already conducting market testing for its high-end SUVs in the world's biggest consumer market – the United States, and now Chery, a leading Chinese automaker, is eyeing Latin America as the fastest-growing market. Urban Latin Americans are potential buyers of reliable, but inexpensive Chery cars.

The Anhui-based Chery and its peers hope to copy the South Korean miracle of expanding auto sales into every corner of the world. A Chery senior manager said at the Changchun International Automobile Fair that his company was planning to launch, with Argentina's SOCMA Group, a joint venture in Uruguay.

Cars are not the only Chinese commodities flooding Latin America. Guangdong-based home appliance giant Gree supplied about 2,400 air conditioners for the Pan American Games media center and athletes quarters in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Some 5,600 athletes and journalists from 42 countries and regions cooled off to China-made air conditioners.

ZTE Corp., a Chinese telecom supplier, sold 1 million cell phones in the first half of 2007 in Venezuela and plans to invest in a local cell phone manufacturing base churning out more ZTE handsets. With relatively low prices, high quality and technological advantages, including 3G and other technologies, ZTE has drawn local partners in Brazil, Peru, Venezu-

ela, Argentina and Colombia. The latest available revenues of ZTE in Latin America were 400 million U.S. dollars in 2005.

China also has some already recognized brands, such as Haier, the world's fourth largest electric appliance manufacturer, which has been promoting innovative high-end refrigerators since April in Latin America. Haier says it has received orders from dozens of countries.

To some extent, these quality products have provided a counterbalance to recent controversies over Chinese exports to the rest of the world. The "poisonous toothpaste" issue, the Panama medicine issue and the U.S. ban on marine exports earlier this year aroused distrust of Chinese exports worldwide. For some, "Made in China" seems to mean "Buyer beware".

Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang has said that China had been very responsible to ensure the quality and safety of its exports, in processing, packaging, delivery or sales. The government has striven to implement laws to supervise and manage the product manufacturers.

More than 99 percent of food exports to the U.S. in the last three years met U.S. quality standards, higher than the equivalent figure for U.S. food exports to China, Qin said. "Products with problems are a tiny minority, those reported by the media cannot blemish all Chinese exports."

Qin acknowledged the controversial products stemmed from

misunderstanding, unscrupulous vendors at home and abroad, and different regulations and policies in imports and exports examination between China and other countries.

Lin Wei, a senior official with the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ), says that the government has focused on food safety problems and increased regulatory oversight gradually.

The AQSIQ announced on July 11 that toothpastes containing diethylene glycol (DEG) were banned from import and export. In exceptional cases that the chemical finds its way into toothpaste with other ingredients, quantities must not exceed limits set by importing countries or regions. Toothpaste factories have been banned from using EG as an ingredient.

The AQSIQ says the long-term use of toothpaste in which the DEG content is less than 15.6 percent would have little adverse effect on the human body. None of the data suggested that toothpaste containing this substance had directly led to the harm.

The statement was intended to highlight China's efforts in raising industry standards to the levels of those in other countries.

The Oral Health Supplies Certification and Management Regula-



June 7<sup>th</sup> 2007, Egyptian audiences are visiting Chinese CHERY stand on an auto exhibition held in Cairo. The 5-day Pan-Arab and Africa auto exhibition attracts more than 30 carmakers including Volkswagen, Toyota and Peugeot. 5 Chinese-brands with 10 models are showing up on the exhibition.

tion has been formulated by the State Certification and Accreditation Administration (CAA) and the Ministry of Health. The CAA is also drawing up stricter certification and grading procedures for the toothpaste industry in China in line with the oral health supplies certification standard of the American Dental Association.

No evidence was found to support any organized violation of product safety standards in China and the government has taken drastic measures to locate and punish companies that do break the law. However, voices of doubt abroad may still deter consumers from treating Chinese goods objectively.

Yu Lixin, a research scholar at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences' Institute of Finance and Trade Economics, urged Chinese firms to improve the image of Chinese products.

"China should satisfy the demand for higher-end products in the international market by adding innovative features," Yu said. "China should transform itself as soon as possible from a powerful trading country to a country with innovative competitiveness."

Competitive Chinese companies, with their own intellectual property rights, are advised by Yu to show their products at international fairs and other global showcases.

Future international competition lay in struggling for intellectual property, technical standards, and other non-tariff barriers, Yu warned.

"The government will play an irreplaceable role in perfecting the industry technical standards, which can't be accomplished in a short time," Yu said.



The President of Haier Group Yang Mianmian (front) introduces the features of a new freezer made by Haier. The catchy model grabbed much attention at the 2007 international kitchen and bathroom exhibition that was held in Las Vegas Convention Center on May 9, 2007

# THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

## The Railway to the "Roof of the World": Wealth and Worries

By **ZHOU Yan**  
*China Features*

Zhaxi Wangzhag prostrated himself on a month-long pilgrimage from his remote village at Nagqu County in northern Tibet to Lhasa, crawling on hands and knees and refusing to walk upright.

He was fulfilling a dream and honoring a commitment to his father, a devout Buddhist who insisted every man in the family should perform the ritual.

The pilgrim says his knees were swollen and his back ached at the end of the 400-kilometer trek.

But he was content even as trains rumbled past several times a day, with passengers smiling and waving through the windows.

The Lhasa tour did not just take Zhaxi Wangzhag to the famous monasteries, but also to herbal markets where he was convinced the wild caterpillar fungus from his hometown promised another fortune this year.

The lucrative Tibetan medicinal cure-all doubled his family income last year.

As Tibetan medicine gains popularity, nearly 1,300 tons of caterpillar fungus and other Tibetan herbs were sold to the other parts of China last year, up 7 percent year-on-year, the regional government says.

It attributes the growth, in part, to the Qinghai-Tibet Railway, which has carried 44,000 tons of Tibetan products to the rest of China in its first year of operation since July 1, 2006. These include organic farm produce, adornments, herbs, incense, dried yak meat, barley beer and even mineral water from an altitude of 5,100 meters.

Meanwhile, the 1,956-kilometer railway has boosted Tibetan markets by bringing in 620,000 tons of supplies, says Qiangba Puncog, chairman of the regional government.

### Changing Lives

"Unprecedented economic growth, rising living standards, and job creation... are transforming life, work and attitudes, especially of the young, in sparsely populated Tibet. And the railway is making a big difference," wrote journalist N. Ram in the Indian



*Tibetan antelope cross under the Qinghai-Tibet Railway*

newspaper, The Hindu.

More than a half century ago, Liu Guangfan trekked three months on camelback from Golmud City of Qinghai Province to Lhasa in order to build the first ever highway on the "roof of the world".

With the railway, the same 1,142-kilometer journey is covered in just 12 hours. Even Beijing is only 48 hours away from Lhasa.

"It's brought in tourists and a better life," says Losang Cering, a taxi driver in his 40s, who earns more than 2,000 yuan (270 U.S. dollars) a month, three or four times the amount he could make as a peasant before.

The railway has created jobs for many peasants in his village close to the Lhasa railway station. "Our village-run taxi fleet has expanded to 70 cars from the previous 10, and the more enterprising young men have contracted civil construction projects, and opened souvenir stores and hostels."

The tourism boom has boosted Tibet's retail market, enabling many peasants and herders to profit from sales of homemade yogurt, dried yak meat and souvenirs at their doorstep.

Qamba, who runs a dairy in Nagqu, plans to buy more cattle and double the plant's current output of 1,500 kilograms a year. "Traditional Tibetan dairy foods are very popular with the tourists. Many buy huge packages to take home," he says.

The immense business opportunities posed by the railway have brought in staggering investment from home and abroad - 4 billion yuan (530 million U.S. dollars) last year, close to the total of the previous five years, says He

Benyun, vice director of Tibet's regional development and reform commission.

This has saved many ailing Tibetan businesses from bankruptcy, he says.

Investors from east China's Zhejiang Province have revived a former brick kiln on the suburbs of Lhasa. Today the Qingda Building Material Supplies Co. em-

by train to Lhasa this summer.

"For many Tibetans, a pilgrimage to Lhasa's monasteries is a lifelong dream," says the young man from Yushu, a Tibetan community in adjacent Qinghai Province.

Yushu is about 2,000 kilometers from Lhasa. Before the Qinghai-Tibet Railway opened, local Tibetans could only take buses to Lhasa. The journey over the zigzagging mountain road was tiring, dangerous and by no means cheap, says Gama Chilai.

The railway has carried trainloads of pilgrims like him into Tibet over the past year.

Last year, 328,000 pilgrims visited the Potala Palace, Norbuglinkha and Johkang Monastery, the top three religious sites in Lhasa, an increase of 62,000 from the previous year, Tibet's regional government says.

During this year's weeklong May Day holiday, more than 73,000 people visited Norbuglinkha, the summer resort



*A Tibetan antelope and its protector at the Hoh Xil nature reserve*

employs 40 locals and sells flooring and tiles to China's inland provinces as well as to Nepal and India.

It has given 22-year-old Lhazhoin a job - three years after she graduated from a local secondary school. She's making 1,500 yuan (200 U.S. dollars) a month as a cashier.

### Culture on the Move

Gama Chilai has taken his extended family of 12, including his grandmother, 73, and his son, 3,

of all the Dalai Lamas. At least 40,000 were pilgrims.

Many travel by train. Pilgrims wearing Tibetan costume and bringing articles of tribute and lamas in crimson cassocks make the train journey to Tibet unique.

In the meantime, many Tibetans have taken the train on pilgrimages elsewhere, to the Ta'er Monastery in Qinghai and the Lama Temple in Beijing.

The railway has also promoted Tibetan culture and arts in the rest

see "Railway" on next page

## ...Railway

*continued from page 15*

of China. Tibetan theme bars, restaurants and souvenir stores are found in many big cities.

"Tibetan adornments have become fashionable almost overnight. They're beautiful," says Wang Yanwen, whose store on Zhangye Road in downtown Lanzhou, capital city of northwestern Gansu Province, sells everything to do with Tibetan Buddhism, ranging from beads and prayer wheels to necklaces and bracelets ingrained with totems.

A Tibetan tap dance has gained nationwide popularity after a group of 70 farmer-performers staged it for the lunar New Year's Eve gala on China Central Television in February.

"I hope people from outside Tibet will also learn about traditional art forms," says Zhaxi Puncog, a villager in Lhaze County of Xigaze, home to the centuries-old dance.

### Man and Nature

A Tibetan antelope runs briskly after a 4-wheel drive vehicle towards the three sheds that serve as a wildlife preservation center in the Hoh Xil Natural Reserve 4,600 meters above sea level.

It apparently recognizes the car and its driver Gama – many Tibetans have no surnames – a worker at the center.

Gama became the animal's means of survival in June 2006, when it was found alone in the wild, barely a week old and with an injured leg. He took it to the center, tended its wounds and kept it at a 300-hectare nature reserve alongside other Tibetan antelopes, stocky wild horses and donkeys.

He named it Nima, which means "the sun" in Tibetan.

Gama and his colleagues work to protect wild species in the Hoh Xil, a 45,000-square kilometer area that is an ideal habitat for wild animals.

"Nima was obviously scared

when the first train leaving Lhasa passed the Hoh Xil," says Gama. "She was barely a month old and had never seen or heard a train. So she ran."

Today, a daily average of six trains pass their home, but Nima and the other animals are no longer afraid. "They simply stop grazing and look."

Doubts and criticisms are part of the history of the "heavenly railway" even when it was still on the drawing board. The possible extinction of the critically endangered Tibetan antelopes has been

Thirty-three special passageways were built along the line, enabling animals to follow their normal migratory routes unhindered.

Last year, a Chinese forestry administration report put the population of Tibetan antelopes in Tibet at 150,000, doubling the number of the late 1980s. The Hoh Xil alone has 50,000 antelopes.

"Next year, when we mark the second year of the railway, we'll set Nima free far from our preservation center. It'll be time for her to return to the wild," says Gama.

"Very likely train passengers

country. It has carried 1.5 million passengers into Tibet, nearly half of the total tourist arrivals over the past year.

Yet the railway has prompted worries from environmental groups including WWF (World Wildlife Fund) over the fragile ecosystems on the plateau.

"Once damaged, it is extremely difficult to reverse. Integrating the needs of local development with conserving Tibet's biodiversity is in need of urgent attention," says Dawa Tsering, head of WWF China's Program Office in Lhasa. Though an assessment by envi-



The Potala Palace

frequently cited by some environmentalists in arguments against the railway.

At the wildlife preservation center, visitors have poured in. "Many chipped in preservation funds. Some offered to work as volunteers," says Gama.

Tibet used to have several million Tibetan antelopes, but excessive poaching and human encroachment on their habitats caused the population to shrink sharply in the past decades.

Until the mid 1990s, up to 4,000 antelopes in Tibet were killed by poachers each year. Tibet has tightened supervision and patrols in the antelopes' habitats since 1998, and established three nature reserves to protect the creatures, covering more than 600,000 square kilometers, an area 40 times the size of Beijing.

The government made wildlife preservation a priority in its construction of the railway to Tibet.

next year will see flocks of pregnant antelopes migrating to their breeding sites. Nima could be one of them."

### Boon or Bane

Yet a year after its opening, debate continues over whether the world's highest railway, built at the cost of 33 billion yuan (4.4 billion U.S. dollars) is a boon or bane.

On the one hand, it drove up Tibet's GDP by 13.4 percent last year to a record 29 billion yuan (3.87 billion U.S. dollars), with per-capita GDP topping 1,000 U.S. dollars. In 2006, Tibetan farmers and herders reported a per-capita net income of 2,435 yuan (325 U.S. dollars), up 17.2 percent year-on-year.

The railway has linked the southwestern China region, once so exotic even to the Chinese, ever so closely with the rest of the

environmental scientists in June indicated no apparent damage to the environment along the route, an official with China's top environmental protection agency recently frowned upon tins and plastic bags littered at several railway stations. In 2010, about 6 million tourists are expected to flood into Lhasa, a city with 400,000 permanent residents. "Tourism will create mountains of garbage and sewage, far beyond the city's waste treatment capacities."

Lhasa allows its sewage water to flood into the Lhasa River. Its only sewage treatment plant became operational in January 2007 to treat sewage water discharged from the railway station and the trains.

"The real test has only started," says Zhu Xingxiang, an official in charge of environment evaluation at the State Environmental Protection Administration.

## OPINION

### B N N

By Bermin F. Weilbacher

bnn\_fsm@yahoo.com

*The opinions expressed in the BNN Column are those of the author.*

#### The fastest thing...

Recall the FASTEST THING JOKE? Well this is not a joke. If you went to your computer and ask Google about the word CANCER, it will give you, after 0.24 seconds, 1 in 10 of 219,000,000 listings. Now that HAD TO BE the fastest thing.

#### A blob of raw meat and blood vessels....

So why am I on to cancer? Well if this thing called cancer is one of the killers of our people, then we ought to talk about it, and we did talk a lot about it in Guam between September 17-20, 2007. With 10 Cancer Coalitions from the Pacific Region talking about how to attack this thing, I'd say it is bloody well important. The most current statistics say it this way: Lung cancer is the leading cause of people dying from cancer. In line after lung cancer are: Liver, Oral, Cervix, Breast, Stomach, Prostate, Colorectal. There are other type of cancers, testicular cancer for instance that were not listed. By the way, the data dates back between 1990-2003. I don't know why we have to be so way behind in creating reliable statistics. The source of the stats here is "Death Certificates, National Health Statistics Office, FSM Department of Health, Education and Social Affairs (HESA).

#### "Cancer...An ugly blob of raw meat and blood vessels. An unnatural evil changing form that has ruined the promising life of a 17-year old girl..."

That is an excerpt from the keynote speaker of the recent CCCPLI meeting at the Westin Hotel in Guam. Dr. Michael Cruz, a physician and the Lt. Governor of Guam, shared with us his first experience with the most complicated disease called CANCER—his first cancer patient who was a beautiful 17-year-old blonde chick with rectal cancer.

#### The power game continues...

All the 10 Regional Comprehensive Cancer Coalitions have managed to get established and working well with their respective governments except one—the FSM National Government Cancer Coalition. It is still floating in the

air of uncertainty because the officials in the FSM National Government who are supposed to give it full support think and act otherwise. They insist that the FSM National Coalition should be treated like any other US Federal Program that is extended to the FSM. But the key difference is that this cancer program is not just any old federal program, as it will involve all stages of activities from screening to treatment. IT IS A COMPREHENSIVE ONE and I think that semantics like that makes the higher ups nervous about losing the power they enjoy with other federal programs.

#### Why five Coalitions?..

And one might ask, "Isn't it enough that the four states have their own Cancer Coalitions? Why should the FSM National Government also have a Cancer Coalition? The answer lies in the nature of our Federation and the grant that supports this program. Rather than giving 4 grants and receiving accountability reports from four State Coalitions, the grantors or donors (in this case the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, National Cancer Institute, Lance Armstrong Foundation and others) prefer to work with a single entity for better tracking of progress of the use of such grants or donations.

#### The Chuuk Coalition expresses concern regarding accountability...

A classic example surfaced during the Guam Conference: In the budget process of the FSM National Coalition, certain funds were set aside as the FSM'S share of the Regional Comprehensive Cancer Control Program Institute. The FSM National Government Department of HESA insists that this fund be spread among the states to reflect its policy of decentralizing functions, etc, etc. Does it also follow that that same policy could be seen as giving away money where there is potential for bad accountability? The Chuuk Coalition, in a pre-conference email stated that it prefers that such fund remain in one account at the National Government for the services to be conducted within the FSM and the Region as well.

Well we'll see. Perhaps when cancer survivors like me and several members of that Guam Conference begin to die from the disease, maybe, just maybe, the powers that be would realize that they are playing with lives of the same people they are supposed to protect.

#### A fatal incident waiting to happen...

Talking about protecting lives...try sitting for a drink of the sacred brew at the old "Stroke Market" and see how dangerous it is to have kids running around near the high voltage sewer lift station at Kepinle. One loose high voltage wire and somebody will be zapped. The place is not even fenced to protect the public?

#### Single voting to be banned?

The political machine is picking up more moss. Today, September 26, 2007, several lawyers stood in front of the Pohnpei State Chief Justice to represent individuals who have expressed interest in running for office—from Governor, State Legislators and down the ranks. Their beef? Single voting should be banned so the Justice is considering whether or not to get involved in politics by trying to decide if the Judiciary has jurisdiction in the an apparent election system that has tolerated and, in fact, allowed "Single Voting" since democracy was brought to the islands. We will know by the first week of October 2007.

Single voting is called such when a voter casts the ballot with only one candidate selected when the ballots require the voter to mark, for instance, 4 candidates from a slate of 7 or 8 candidates.

Put it another way: If an American, a Russian, a Chinese, a French and a Filipino are running for only two seats in John Doe's Legislature, and the Filipino voters vote for the Filipino candidate only, that is single voting. Should the ballot be valid? That is the beef.

## JUST FOR FUN

### Career Path

An older couple had a son, who was still living with them. The parents were a little worried, as the son was still unable to decide about his career path, so they decided to do a small test.

They took a ten-dollar bill, a Bible, and a bottle of whiskey, and put them on the front hall table. Then they hid, hoping he would think they weren't at home.

The father told the mother, "If he takes the money, he will be a businessman; if he takes the Bible, he will be a priest; but if he takes the bottle of whiskey, I'm afraid our son will be a drunkard."

So the parents took their place in the nearby closet and waited nervously, peeping through the keyhole they saw their son arrive home.

He saw the note they had left, saying they'd be home later. Then, he took the 10-dollar bill, looked at it against the light, and slid it in his pocket. After that, he took the Bible, flicked through it, and took it also. Finally, he grabbed the bottle, opened it, and took an appreciative whiff to be assured of the quality, then he left for his room carrying all the three items.

The father slapped his forehead, and said, "It's even worse than I ever imagined..."

"What do you mean?" his wife inquired.

"He's gonna be a politician." the father replied.

## KP-Perspective

### Law and Order - It's High Time

Having accomplished a fair amount of work in the morning and ready for lunch, I walked to my battle scarred car and found that the poor thing had taken yet another hit. For whatever reason, an unknown someone decided that it would be fun, or at least interesting to run a sharp object down its side. The wound that extended from the driver's door down the rest of its length to the bumper was fresh enough that paint dust still clung from the ragged edges of the scar. The car had been parked outside of Namiki Restaurant which is upstairs from the Kolonia office of The Kaselehlie Press.

I tell you where it was parked only so that you will be certain to know that I'm not talking about our offices in Paris, Los Angeles, Vienna, or Katmandu. This "keying" most definitely occurred in Kolonia, Pohnpei.

Rats, pigeons and crime thrive in places where people gather to live. Vandalism is just one of the crimes that occurs in Pohnpei. It is vandalism if a person scrapes a key down the length of a car not belonging to him or her, just as it was vandalism when another person painted a sexual epithet on the sign that serves as the welcome to Kolonia on its southwest end. The crime involving the sign doesn't seem to bother Kolonia Town leaders or citizens because the epithet has been there for months. Perhaps the directive of the vandal echoes its citizen's desires for its visitors? I doubt it.

This whole "law and order topic" struck me as something that might be interesting to you because of a conversation I had with Police Chief Joe Roby, of the Pohnpei State Police Department. We had coffee sitting at the picnic benches at the Namiki building, not 50 feet from where my car was later "keyed". We were talking about how law enforcement is going to be stepped up in Pohnpei on October 1<sup>st</sup> following the graduation of 15 of his police officers from the Police Academy on the 28<sup>th</sup> of September.

Chief Roby said something had to be done "with our roads". While the state of our roads is a completely different story, what he was talking about on that day was the way people drive and walk on them in Pohnpei. He spoke of new 24 hour motorcycle patrols all over Pohnpei to try to maintain both vehicular and other types of

law and order. Almost wistfully he spoke about breathalyzers for sobriety testing and radar speed guns to begin to deal with exces-



sively fast, excessively slow, and excessively twisted drivers on Pohnpei roads.

We talked about the much touted but yet to be seen traffic lights. He says they will soon be coming to Pohnpei. He wondered aloud about what drivers who have been unused to following traffic signals would do with their instruction as well as how the lights could be programmed for peak and non-peak traffic times. What about atypical traffic days like when the streets are filled with recipients of Social Security and their families?

That conversation led to another short one about the incessant blowing of whistles by traffic cops who don't seem to know that blowing a whistle every 1 and a half seconds deadens the whistle's impact on drivers. We agreed that the whistle is intended to indicate a change in direction in much the same way that a yellow traffic light says, "I'm about to change to red and if you can stop safely right now, you really ought to start thinking about it." Can you imagine a traffic light that changed immediately from green to red and the rear end collisions that would result?

Chief Roby seemed to be especially concerned as he talked, about the driving habits of taxi drivers who in recent weeks have been blamed for several accidents and have also been accused of miscellaneous crimes. The accidents have been as mundane and irritating as fender benders and as serious as head on injury accidents

at excessive speeds. Taxi drivers' crimes have ranged from driving under the influence to the despicable alleged rape of a young girl.

It's another subject I could go on and on about. Perhaps I should for a moment...

Taxi companies have not raised their fees in ages because no one seems to want to be the first to do

and more falling down on the job.

Children wander the streets at night to do whatever they will, including breaking into places they don't belong and creating havoc inside or stealing from those places while parents are oblivious to their offspring's doings.

In some cases, there is family complicity involved in crime. Family members not only condone but charge their members participate in illegal activities in order to support the household.

It's not surprising really. In 2000, the Pohnpei Census said that unemployment was at 26%. Anecdotal, by which I mean, "the 'facts' that people talk about whether real or imagined", Pohnpei's unemployment rate is now at nearly 40%. It may be and it may not be but the point is that the public perception is that it is true.

If you can get it, rather than cash under the table at a lower amount, minimum wage is still just \$1.35 per hour before taxes. Gasoline and kerosene is currently at \$4.30 a gallon. Electricity costs 37 cents a kilowatt hour. A forty pound bag of rice, which may eventually give its consumers diabetes but will keep them alive until it kills them, averages around \$16.95 a bag; 12 and a half hours of labor before tax if someone in the family is employed at minimum wage.

A friend of mine told me about a pathway that continues on beyond the reputable place where he works. The pathway leads to a house near the water where a family lives along with several of their young female relatives. He said that often the young girls are accompanied down the path by an older obviously unrelated male who only stays for around 30 minutes. Later in the day, a 40 pound bag of rice or a case of chicken is delivered to the home. One can only imagine what type of labor was performed for the food supplies. I imagine all of the family members being kicked out of the house while the labor is performed. The thought saddens me. Suddenly my keyed car just doesn't seem all that important.

Perhaps better law enforcement *will* help where culture has begun to fail. It's a shame that more citations will have to be issued and more arrests will have to be made in order to get people to treat each other better. I hope that it won't take long to get the message out that the Police are serious and that penalties will have to be paid if

so. To make the same inflation eroded money they did six years ago, drivers have to take on more fares than ever they had to do in the past. They have to drive faster in order to make it happen. Maybe I'm alone but I'd rather pay double the fare than to continue to have the problems that have occurred with drivers lately; drivers who are trying to make a living. Making a living seems to be more important in many of their minds than whether or not they're driving safely—not bad people just unsafe and uncaring drivers.

Chief Roby and I talked about the Police Department's efforts, both past and future to educate the public in a society that has had several Police Departments for many years but still has not really come to terms with the job they are charged to do. Performance in the past has not always been top notch. There have been a few cops who act as if their flashing lights, sirens, or even their uniforms make them invincible and untouchable and this has hurt their communication with the public and made their job harder.

As always, when I am with Chief Roby the conversation turned to why all this increased law enforcement is necessary. I, who am part of one of the cultures that likely brought the problem to Pohnpei in the first place, am the one that seems, more often than not, to turn the conversation in that direction. I'm constantly amazed, knowing that family ties are supposed to be the strongest ones in Pohnpei, that families are more

see "Order" on next page

## PLACES TO VISIT

# An Ignorant American's Quest for the Elusive Lehn Paipohn

By **BILL JAYNES**  
The Kaselehlie Press

I'm used to doing things on my own. Before I had to write a lot, I read a lot and was proud that I could learn nearly anything given a good book on the subject. I taught myself to climb mountains safely even when dangling by fingertips and toes from a vertical rock wall 1500 feet off the deck. I learned to do most everything I do by reading, talking to people who already knew how to do it, and by practicing. Maybe it's because "Pride goes before a fall". Maybe it's because of the fact that I have been unable to find any good books on the subject. Whatever it is, finding the Lehn Paipohn Waterfall which pours into what is purported to be the largest and deepest lake in Pohnpei has become my version of the Holy Grail.

Stupid or not, I wanted the joy of finding the waterfall on my own without a guide like a real Pohnpeian would be able to do. I wanted to succeed in putting the pieces together from the vague information in the Pohnpei Ecotourism Travel Guide (60 minutes by car from Kolonia and 20 minutes walk from the entrance) and the map they gave me that shows only the secondary roads leading to waterfalls. That map shows the road to the falls as lying near the Nanpei Memorial School which is apparently also near the pick up point for Nahlap Resort to which I've never been.

Despite what I've said so far, I'm not the stereotypical American male. I don't mind too much, when I'm pressed and my wife's fingernails are embedded in my thigh, stopping and asking for directions. Sometimes I'll ask several different people for directions to get consensus if I feel I've been led astray. When a man walking down the road in Kitti told me that the road I'd just passed with the

bus stop next to it was the one to Lehn Paipohn and I just needed to go "straight up the road", I took him for his word. He must have confused our embattled little Nissan Sunny with a tank or a monster truck.

When the car bottomed out on the "road" I decided it was time to turn around and ask for more directions. We found a woman carrying a small child and I instantly thought that she would be a more reliable source of information than my first choice. I'm a man and I empathize with our tendency to invent answers when we don't know the real ones.

We followed the woman's directions, parked in a "wide space" in the road, and continued on foot.

Before too long it became apparent that tracking the Lehn Paipohn is a lot like tracking a Roosevelt Elk in the Olympic Mountain Range if my friends in Washington State's Peninsula are to be believed. My "adventuring friends" told me that elk have an annoying tendency to taunt a hunter until both hunter and prey are five miles from camp. Only then will an elk provide a profile enabling the hunter to take a shot. This tactic leaves the hunter to carry out the majestic elk's edible remains a quarter at a time. Elk, apparently never provide a profile to a hunter until they are at least five miles away from camp. Lehn Paipohn is, apparently not much different.

While elk hunting is usually done in weather that has been known on occasion to freeze a hunter's knickers (pants) off, tracking the Lehn Paipohn has caused more than one tracker to abandon the style in which knickers are normally worn for the more comfort-

able "knickers as hat" style, leaving him to swing free like one of the boys in William Golding's, "The Lord of the Flies".

Though I avoided that particular temptation on our search I became more certain step by step that I was

crew socks with gravel sprinkles that remained for a good portion of the remaining inward trip. It felt to me like an early Christian must have felt while wearing a hair shirt, only on the wrong part of my body.

Some time later as I rounded a bend I saw through the trees that had hung over the trail for most of the way, a glint of light shimmering from water flowing vertically—a waterfall! I walked, almost trotted down the trail but something was not right. Like a scene that might have occurred in "Alice in Wonderland" the water was flowing not down but up.



heading the siren call. As we rounded each bend we saw instead of a refreshing lake fed by a waterfall, only more trail at a steeper angle than we'd just negotiated.

It was only ten minutes into our trek that I heard running water and knew that we were headed in the right direction. We came to what looked like a disaster site; a concrete sided tin roofed house full to overflowing with water pouring from the eaves. I discovered that the "house" was fed by a four inch pipe that poured water in from its top and realized that this "house" served as a "tank" of sorts for the community. The water had to be coming from somewhere and so we continued on well past the described twenty minute walk.

As we walked my wife checked with me to be sure that I had brought enough money for a taxi ride in case we found ourselves emerging roadside in Madolenihmw on the opposite side of the island. She got a good giggle when I stepped into a soft place on the trail that sucked both of my zories from my feet and left me wearing chocolate colored

It was another four inch water pipe with a one inch hole in it. Water spewed into the air to a height of forty feet landing sixty feet away from its source. I used the man made geyser to wash the chocolate crew socks from my feet and zories and managed to give my wife another giggle when the last burst, inadvertently diverted by my hand went straight up the hind end of my shorts.

The water that fed the pipe was coming from somewhere but we never found out where. We never made it to Lehn Paipohn though we continued well beyond the point of my posterior dousing.

I found out later that we were on the famous Seven Waterfalls hike. We never reached the first of them before we turned back. We only had a few hours for our afternoon trip and we used them all. Lehn Paipohn is, according to my best information, not on the Seven Waterfalls hike.

I give up. Is anyone interested in showing us where Lehn Paipohn is hiding?

## ...Order

*continued from previous page*

you break the law.

Whether those penalties will be a sufficient deterrent, or whether the courts will be able to act quickly enough for the accused to remember what it is they're being punished for I don't know.

**Bill Jaynes**  
Managing Editor

*A postscript to an already very long K-Press Perspective:*

*Moments after I typed the last period on the last sentence of this piece, the phone rang. It was my wife calling to tell me that my 22 year old son had walked to our house and was beside himself. Sometime while he was sleeping last night someone lifted the screen from one of his windows, entered his home, stole his cell phone, the one I helped him buy two days ago, opened his wallet, and stole the last \$50 from the paycheck he just got*

*yesterday which was supposed to last him for two weeks. He couldn't call the police for obvious reasons.*

*I helped him buy the phone because the one he had been using disappeared some time during the night two weeks ago. He thought he'd simply misplaced it. We now think otherwise.*

*I'll be spending the rest of this afternoon trying to help him recover what he should never have been separated from in the first place.*

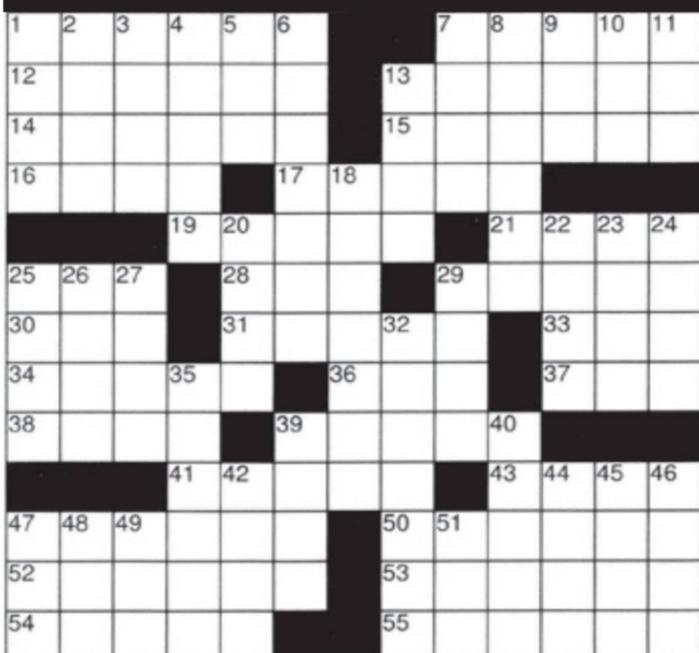
*The next day a friend told me that*

*on Saturday night since his house has bars on the windows thieves went through the wall to steal his laptop computer. A computer that doesn't even work. I bet they feel silly.*

*This article will publish on October 3<sup>rd</sup> but right now October 1 is over a week away. I hope it gets here soon. It's getting silly around here.*

*The next thing you know I'll need to start reporting on the most recent drive by shooting in Pohnpei.*

### CROSSWORD PUZZLE



**SOLUTION IN NEXT ISSUE**

**ACROSS**

- 1. Ignited
- 7. Pressed suit
- 12. Blossom
- 13. Act like a coward
- 14. Shopper's bonus
- 15. Beaten in a fight
- 16. One who is in the red
- 17. Thief
- 19. No longer chic
- 21. Canyon's effect
- 25. Cries of recognition
- 28. Join in matrimony
- 29. Pancake topper
- 30. Black or Red
- 31. Mature one
- 33. Ginger
- 34. Steep in cost
- 36. Doves do it
- 37. Prohibition
- 38. Band member's highlight
- 39. Cat calls?
- 41. Chem lab container

**BLOSSOM**

- 43. Get an acceptable grade
- 47. Casual shoe
- 50. Wintry hanger
- 52. Beat at the buffet
- 53. By a margin
- 54. Dog show category
- 55. Says "hi" to
- 20. Be off with you!
- 22. Grouch
- 23. hoop
- 24. Unseal
- 25. Poisonous snakes
- 26. Hoagie
- 27. Wind gatherer
- 29. Stash
- 32. Through the.... Glass

**DOWN**

- 1. Bushy do
- 2. Took a plane
- 3. Brain part
- 4. Hugo or Tony
- 5. Bumped into
- 6. Built a building
- 7. Threesome
- 8. Lime
- 9. Printer's need
- 10. Improve with
- 11. Was in charge
- 13. Oaf
- 18. Breaks down
- 35. Sleepy one's request
- 39. Purchasing place
- 40. Steeple
- 42. Take control
- 44. Land measurement
- 45. Place to stick mail
- 46. Does embroidery
- 47. Tennis ploy
- 48. Miss Brooks
- 49. Did lunch
- 51. Coupe or sedan

## Word Search - RON HOWARD'S...

Ron Howard began his professional career in front of the camera, appearing in films and on television. Over the years, however, he's taken up a station behind the scenes as one of Hollywood's most successful directors.

**ACTOR**

- "AMERICAN Graffiti"
- "ANDY Griffith Show, The"
- "APOLLO 13"
- "BACKDRAFT"
- CAREER**
- CHILD** star
- CLINT (brother)
- "COCOON"
- COMEDY**
- DIRECTOR**
- DRAMA**
- DUNCAN, Okia. (birthplace)
- "EAT MY DUST!"
- FAME**
- "FAR AND AWAY"
- "GRAND Theft Auto"



- "GUNG HO"
- "HAPPY DAYS"
- MOTION** pictures
- "NIGHT SHIFT"
- OPIE Taylor
- "The PAPER",
- "PARENTHOOD"
- PRODUCER**
- "RANSOM"
- RICHIE Cunningham
- SCRIPTS**
- "SHOOTIST, The"
- "SPLASH"
- SUCCESS**
- TALENT**
- TELEVISION**
- "WILLOW"
- WRITER**

### MARY BERMAN

Attorney

Tel: (691) 320-2210 P.O. Box 163  
Email: mberman@mail.fm Kolonia, Pohnpei  
FM 96941

### The KASELEHLIE Press

BILL JAYNES  
MANAGING EDITOR

Tel: (691) 320-6547 P.O. Box 2222  
Email: kpress@mail.fm Pohnpei, FM  
96941

Law Office of



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## So What's the Difference?

It is surprising to me how often I hear the words, "Well, all religions are basically the same anyway, aren't they? I have this weakness which causes me to want to agree with people whenever possible, but I cannot agree with such illogical thinking.

What we believe makes us do what we do. A starving Hindu will not kill and eat a cow because he views the cow as sacred. If my family and I are starving, ol' Betsy is going on the uhm. My reading of the Bible leads me to believe that God gave us the right to eat animals so that we can stay

alive.

What a person believes about Christ is the most important belief you can hold. I can believe that sea-level change is a lie from western scientists and move to a low island only to be drowned by a sneaker wave. If I believe the truth about Christ and trust Him to give me eternal life, my terrible mistake about sea-level change is not the end for me. God, through Christ's death and resurrection will give me more life.

The next logical question is, "How do we find out who Christ is?" A thinking

person might check the Bible. It is the best selling book of all time; the first book to be printed on the printing press and a part of the Bible was the first book printed on the American continent. Martin Luther risked his life by translating the Bible into German so people could read it for themselves. William Tyndale and John Wycliffe did the same in England. Thousands of people risked their lives and moved to America for the freedom to live as they felt the Bible taught them. It seems logical to check what it says.

In the Bible, Peter, the man Christ picked to be the chairman of his disciples, answered the quiz question of the day by saying that Jesus was the Christ, the son of the living God. By this Peter meant that Jesus, born in Nazareth and walking around with them, was the promised Savior of the world. He was the person God had been saying would come to save people from their sins and make it possible for all men who trust Christ to find a way to heaven.

The real shocker with Jesus was that he actually was God!

The Son of the living God was also God. Most of the billions of Christians who have lived since Jesus walked the earth 2000 years ago have and do believe this. The ancient belief statements of the Church have said and still say that this is what the Bible teaches.

The Bible also teaches that Christ is the cornerstone and builder of his church. He is truth and his church must be founded on the truth. Christ is the head of his body, the church. He directs it and guides it and allows it to function. Jesus Christ is the Good Shepherd of the flock and he protects and cares for his people who know and follow him. Christ is the Bridegroom who has gone to build a beautiful home and prepare a magnificent meal for his bride and one day he will come back and take her to the wedding banquet. Christ is the true vine from which all Christians draw their life as they live as fruit-bearing branches. He is the King of Kings, the victorious warrior and judge on the white horse called Faithful and True. He is the beginning and the end of human history having been part of creation and the coming king of the new creation.

So is there a difference in religions? The main difference is Christ. Could there be a more significant difference? Ask people what they believe about Christ and listen carefully to the answer. If it agrees with what Peter said in the Bible, great! If not, the name Christian should not be used for such beliefs. If Coca Cola and Ace Hardware care about how their names are used, don't you think Christ does?

**Gary Gardell**

Tide Table October 3 - 16, 2007				
POHNPEI, KOSRAE			CHUUK	
Wednesday	03 Wed 02:17AM 2.0 05:32AM 2.1 10:22AM 1.8 07:18PM 3.6	10 Wed 02:34AM 4.1 08:42AM 1.0 02:57PM 4.4 09:04PM 1.2	03 Wed 07:47AM -0.5 04:53PM 1.9	10 Wed 01:39AM 1.5 07:51AM 0.2 02:08PM 1.7 08:15PM 0.4
Thursday	04 Thu 07:29AM 1.7 10:34PM 3.4	11 Thu 02:57AM 4.0 08:57AM 1.0 03:16PM 4.6 09:31PM 1.2	04 Thu 07:56AM -0.5 05:15PM 1.6	11 Thu 01:55AM 1.3 07:48AM 0.2 02:17PM 1.9 08:43PM 0.3
Friday	05 Fri 07:23AM 1.4 02:34PM 2.8 06:00PM 2.6	12 Fri 03:19AM 3.9 09:13AM 1.0 03:36PM 4.7 09:57PM 1.2	05 Fri 08:05AM -0.4 11:57PM 1.6	12 Fri 02:10AM 1.2 07:47AM 0.2 02:30PM 2.0 09:12PM 0.2
Saturday	06 Sat 12:18AM 3.7 07:37AM 1.3 02:05PM 3.1 07:01PM 2.2	13 Sat 03:39AM 3.7 09:28AM 1.0 03:57PM 4.7 10:23PM 1.2	06 Sat 08:09AM -0.3 04:20PM 1.1 06:39PM 1.0	13 Sat 02:23AM 1.0 07:47AM 0.1 02:46PM 2.1 09:41PM 0.2
Sunday	07 Sun 01:06AM 3.9 07:54AM 1.1 02:10PM 3.4 07:38PM 1.8	14 Sun 03:59AM 3.4 09:42AM 1.1 04:18PM 4.6 10:51PM 1.4	07 Sun 12:34AM 1.6 08:07AM -0.1 03:03PM 1.1 06:57PM 0.9	14 Sun 02:33AM 0.8 07:47AM 0.1 03:04PM 2.2 10:12PM 0.2
Monday	08 Mon 01:41AM 4.1 08:10AM 1.1 02:22PM 3.8 08:09PM 1.6	15 Mon 04:17AM 3.1 09:56AM 1.2 04:41PM 4.5 11:22PM 1.5	08 Mon 01:00AM 1.6 08:02AM 0.0 02:21PM 1.2 07:21PM 0.7	15 Mon 02:36AM 0.6 07:47AM 0.0 03:24PM 2.1 10:49PM 0.3
Tuesday	09 Tue 02:09AM 4.1 08:26AM 1.0 02:39PM 4.1 08:37PM 1.3	16 Tue 04:35AM 2.9 10:08AM 1.3 05:06PM 4.3	09 Tue 01:21AM 1.6 07:55AM 0.1 02:07PM 1.4 07:48PM 0.5	16 Tue 02:28AM 0.5 07:46AM -0.1 03:45PM 2.1 11:45PM 0.4

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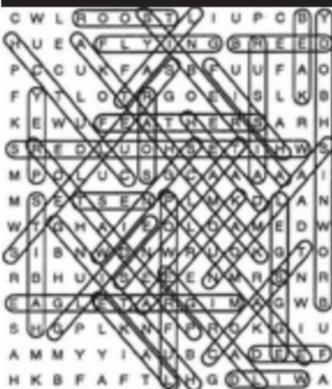
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The deadline for  
ads and news  
items for the next  
issue is  
**October 12**

**LAST Issue's Solution**



**LAST Issue's Solution**



## COMMUNITY BULLETIN

- Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Wednesday at Cantero Hall at the Roman Catholic vicariate office at 7:00pm. Public welcome. For details, call 320-2123.
- Pohnpei Lions Club meets monthly every 4th Tuesday at Cliff Rainbow Restaurant at 6:30pm. Public Welcome.
- The Christian Ministerial Association of Pohnpei meets the third Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in Cantero Hall at the Roman Catholic vicariate office.
- Devotions every Sunday 9:30 a.m. at the Bahai Center in Dolonier. For details, call 320-2182.
- Habitat for Humanity Pohnpei holds their meetings every Tuesday from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Sei Restaurant.
- Soccer practice/games at PICS field Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 5:30p.m. Everyone welcome.
- The Rotary Club of Pohnpei holds its weekly meetings Thursdays at 12:15p.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 PM to 1:00 PM. The public is welcome.
- The Rotary Club of Truk Lagoon holds its weekly meetings every Wednesday at 12:00 Noon at the Truk Stop Hotel Restaurant VIP Room. You are welcome to attend and can contact us at [rotarycluboftruklagoon@yahoo.com](mailto:rotarycluboftruklagoon@yahoo.com)

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

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## HEALTH AND NUTRITION

# Micronesia Highlighted in the Eden Project Banana Exhibit

By **Dr. LOIS ENGLBERGER**  
*Pohnpei Island Food Community*

Pohnpei, Micronesia, *Karat* (banana), the FSM banana postal stamps and activities of the Island Food Community of Pohnpei (IFP) are now all highlighted in an impressive display at the permanent banana exhibit of Eden Project in Cornwall, England.

The Eden Project is described as a "green theme park" with living biomes, confirmed by the 2004 Guinness Book of Records as the biggest conservatories in the world. See their website at <http://www.edenproject.com>. Their goals include helping connect plants, people and places, protecting the environment and biodiversity, and educational, environmental and scientific aims. The park has as many as 8000 visitors a day!

Dr. Andrew Ormerod of Eden Project, contacted Dr. Lois Englberger in 2006 for information and along with Dr. Jo Elworthy and others from the Eden Project, the display was developed.

One very special feature of the exhibit is that of the live recording, provided by Adelino Lorens, IFCP Chairman. A button is placed next to the glass-encased display case. Visitors may press the button and hear Adelino explaining about the importance of banana to Pohnpeians, how they are grown and consumed, the many non-food uses, the unique Pohnpei varieties and why they are special. Erik Steffen of Micronesia

Seminar assisted in preparing this recording.

A visit was made on 15 and 16 August, 2007, with kind hospitality by Dr. Ormerod and the Eden Project team welcoming Dr. Lois Englberger, who gave a seminar and power point presentation; Konrad Englberger, who prepared photographs of the exhibit; and Dr. David Clow and Florence Clow, long-time friends of the Pacific. There was great interest.

The exhibit includes a wooden column, on which a world globe is placed, and markings are made for the two sites highlighted, Micronesia and Uganda, so that visitors can locate the places. Visitors can then go to the left to the Uganda display and to the right to the Micronesia display.

What a great privilege for Micronesia to be included, as the one of the banana-producing places in the world, along with Uganda!

Some of the Micronesian items exhibited are: the Pohnpei Bananas poster, Karat bumper sticker, FSM Karat postal stamps, photo of the late Sintaro Ezra of the FSM Philatelic Bureau, who worked hard to produce the *Karat* postal stamps, photos of IFCP and Let's Go Local club members, and the IFCP logo. As shown in the photo, there are also actual banana plants, some even bearing fruit, as part of the exhibit.

Thanks once again to all of those assisting in this project, including



*The Micronesia display case at the Eden Project permanent banana exhibit, Cornwall, England.*

Dr. Ormerod and the other dedicated Eden Project team members; Erik Steffen; and also Dr. David Clow and Florence Clow, who kindly drove the Englbergers from London to Cornwall, about a 5-hour drive!

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## The David and Lucile Packard Foundation and the CSP Partnership Commitment to Conservation in Pohnpei

By Patterson K. Shed  
Executive Director, CSP

The Conservation Society of Pohnpei (CSP) began its conservation mission on July 20, 1998. This could not have happened at a better time in the history of Pohnpei. The CSP owes its successes and accomplishments to its visionary founding members, the traditional leaders of Pohnpei, Pohnpei State Government, the people of Pohnpei, and our many partners from other parts of the world, many of whom have not even visited Pohnpei, but nevertheless gave technical and funding support on faith to CSP in the earlier years. Many of these earlier partners have remained steadfast and supportive to this day.

The David and Lucile Packard Foundation is one such partner; forged on faith with a vision for the future for both global and local conservation. The CSP's partnership with the Packard Foundation began in 2000 through its Western Pacific Program Officer, Bernd Cordes, who came all the way to Pohnpei from California to witness the work CSP and Pohnpei had set out to accomplish. It was a partnership in the making with both organizations working to chart a new course and conservation model for marine conservation in Pohnpei and the wider region. From the outset, the CSP Packard partnership mix had the right ingredients. Packard was looking to break new grounds through its Western Pacific Program and CSP was also looking for unique partnership opportunities to break new grounds on Pohnpei's conservation approach.

As a fledgling conservation NGO, with only one staff and an impressive vision for Pohnpei, CSP went

to work. CSP's first project was the Clean Up Pohnpei Campaign to mobilize the citizens, governments and communities around Pohnpei in active preservation of Pohnpei natural heritage. With massive participation, CSP successfully carried out its first project. Having tasted success, CSP broadened its focus and sought to take on a more challenging role that would strengthen conservation efforts in Pohnpei. Over the past nine years CSP has grown; it has added 20 young Pohnpeians to its staff with three strategically structured programs in place to meet its conservation mission. The CSP would like to honor Mr. William Kostka as the first CSP employee and its first Executive Director of the Society for his dedication and untiring contribution to conservation efforts in Pohnpei and the wider region. Mr. Kostka now serves as the Executive Director of Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT).

Some highlights of CSP's programs include the formation of the Terrestrial Program to focus attention and effort on conservation of the important Watershed Forest Reserve (WFR) of Pohnpei. To accomplish this CSP works in close collaboration with State partners, traditional structure, and communities around Pohnpei utilizing both modern and local knowledge. The Terrestrial Program has also accomplished the delineation and demarcation of two municipalities (U, Madolenihmw and 1/3 of Kitti) a 5,100 hectares of pristine native forest. Work is ongoing for the remaining areas in Pohnpei. Other activities worth mentioning include quarterly forest monitoring, Enipein Watershed study, Mangrove forest reserve initiative, and invasive eradication. Another important CSP program is

Education and Awareness, which focuses on educating the Pohnpei citizens about the importance of Pohnpei's natural environment through programs like the Green Road Show, education on wheels delivered to all schools in Pohnpei, the Youth to Youth program that targets sixth graders in select schools around Pohnpei with fun interactive natural learning on relevant conservation and environmental topics, and the community outreach program, an effort to raise awareness at the grassroots level. CSP's education awareness efforts are all in partnership with Pohnpei State Department of Education and Pohnpei Resource Management Committee (PRMC). Our Marine Program was established to compliment the efforts of Pohnpei State Government. Our local partners have significantly contributed to the marine conservation initiative. Today, due to our joint efforts, Pohnpei is fortunate to have in place 11 Marine Protected Areas (MPA) around Pohnpei at different management levels. CSP have also set standard for monitoring protocols in 7 MPA sites, including the popular spawning and aggregation site at Kehpara MPA. The Marine Program has worked with world famous research scientists to improve conservation area management through establishment of management plans.

There have been many good lessons learned over the years on improving our work and partnerships. Our accomplishments, however, would not have been possible without the great support CSP has had over its nine years of service. Many people and organizations including private foundations have contributed to our success. The CSP conservation model has also inspired NGOs in other parts of Micronesia to take on

similar conservation efforts.

CSP dedicates our success to the Packard Foundation for having the faith and vision and for believing in CSP. Our success story is also theirs. The Packard Foundation since 2000 has given substantial donations and support to CSP in both project based and capacity development funds to help the Society become what it is today. In July this year the Foundation renewed its commitment to the conservation effort in Pohnpei and has committed to provide \$450,000.00 to CSP over the next four years in support of CSP planned conservation goals and objectives. This is over 15% of CSP's planned annual operation. The CSP and the people of Pohnpei would like to thank the Packard Foundation for the continued commitment and support to the conservation work in Pohnpei.

Over the next four years, CSP hopes to strengthen the local network of MPAs and to have in place practical management plans at each of the sites, so that we can finally achieve our ultimate goal of successfully conserving Pohnpei's vital and irreplaceable marine life. Through hard work and valuable scientific research support by the Packard Foundation, such as the Rapid Ecological Assessment (REA), Pohnpei is positioned to strategically improve the current network of protected areas in Pohnpei over the next four years. The CSP is also grateful that the Foundation has broadened its support to include elements of land based conservation efforts that affect marine based efforts.

In our unique Pohnpeian way we express our sincere **Kalahngan** to The Packard Foundation a special partner and friend of the Society.



The Pohnpei Competitors' Association (PCA) is accepting applications from non-school based youth and young adult groups to form game clubs in their communities. PCA is an organization created to promote HIV/AIDS awareness and provide recreational alternatives for youth and young adults, 14 to 25 years old. Games available are Chess, Monopoly, and Scrabble. Game materials and instructions will be provided. Presentations about HIV/AIDS will be conducted during the year. Please call 320-5898 for more information. ♡ Learn How to Play a Game! ♡