

Personal bests and FSM records set at World Swimming Championships in Budapest

By Bill Jaynes
 The Kaselehlie Press

July 28, 2017

Budapest, Hungary—Two FSM swimmers have not only scored personal bests at the FINA World Championships in Budapest, Hungary, but they have also broken two FSM national swimming records.

25 year old Dionisio Augustine was the first to break an FSM national swimming record. On July 25 he swam the 50 meter breast stroke finishing third in his heat with an impressive time of 32.28, not only a personal best for him but an FSM



national record time. Augustine finished 66th overall in the world championships.

17 year old Kaleo Kihleng swam his first event, the 50 meter Butterfly on July 23. He finished with a personal best time of 27.98, placing 7th in his heat and 73rd overall. Kaleo swam his final event on July 26, the 100 meter Freestyle

finishing sixth in his heat with a time of 56.79, a personal best and another FSM record. He finished 97th overall in that event.

At press time, more swimming events for

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FSM Supreme Court grants limited freedom to Nepalese refugees

By Bill Jaynes
 The Kaselehlie Press

July 21, 2017

Pohnpei, FSM—FSM Supreme Court Associate Justice Beaulen Carl-Worswick has ruled to grant a writ of habeus corpus filed by local attorney Marstella Jack on behalf of Nepalese refugees who had previously been housed on a leaky, rodent and bug infested, ramshackle boat at the Pohnpei port.

After lengthy investigation, the UN's Refugee Agency, the UNHCR determined that of the 17 men who arrived in Yap without documentation in October of 2014, Hari Timsina, Indra Ghimire, Bishnu Tamang, and Khadga Bahadur Thapa were legitimate refugees and began the process of looking for a country that would accept them for resettlement. The 13 other men from Nepal were returned to their home country, but the four who were determined to be legitimate refugees could not be returned to

Nepal. Under International customary law and under the standards of human decency, every person has the right to non-refoulement... Non-refoulement is "[a] refugees right not to be expelled from one stat to another, esp. to one where his or her life or liberty would be threatened," the court quoted from Black's Law Dictionary.

During an interview with The Kaselehlie Press in June, the men each said that they had not known that Jack would be "going against the government" by going to the court. However, according to the Supreme Court ruling, they had earlier testified differently during the hearing on June 7. They testified then that they had verbally authorized Jack to represent them. Their later answers during our interview may have been based on a perceived fear of government retaliation, which their lifelong experience in Nepal may have taught them was a reasonable fear, but which is not practiced in

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New Congress funded asphalt plant in Palikir officially opens



By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

July 19, 2017

Pohnpei—Before the opening ceremony that was held this afternoon, the new asphalt plant in Palikir had already produced approximately 300 tons of asphalt. After the ceremony that included keynote speakers, Acting Governor Reed Oliver and FSM President Peter M.



Christian, the plant produced another five tons of the road paving material with the first batch coming out in about 20 minutes.

A Pohnpei Transportation Authority (PTA)

truck carried that asphalt up to the top of what is commonly known as “low gear” hill in Palikir and used it to fix some of the many potholes there.

The new asphalt plant replaces the antiquated plant in Palikir that for several years has belched ugly black smoke. Residents downwind of the plant constantly complained about tarry residue on their property whenever the former plant was in use. The old plant still stands—a rusted hulk after nearly 30 years of service.

The new plant, installed by Tanaka Iron Works of Japan which won the bid for the provision of the plant, is much more efficient and the “smoke” that bellows from its heaters is white. The emissions are more steam



than anything else.

Though some Palikir residents say that there is still a small amount of white fallout from the plant, it is much better than when the previous plant was in use. Then, clothes left out to dry were often coated in black soot along with everything else on the surrounding properties.



nation of that process.

At press time it was still unclear exactly how much of the allotted money was spent on the power plant and what was spent on other equipment or supplies related to it. The Director of the Pohnpei Department of Treasury and Administration was not in the office at any time when we called and did not return messages that we left.

In 2015, the FSM Congress passed a special projects bill that included \$2.75 million dollars funding for infrastructure in Pohnpei from locally generated funds. In July of 2015, Senator David Panuelo, the At-Large Pohnpei Senator wrote a letter to Speaker Scaliem of the Pohnpei State Legislature suggesting that \$1 million of the special projects could potentially be set aside to replace the antiquated asphalt plant.

The Legislature agreed and Senator Panuelo later amended the project bill to encompass the purchase and installation of the plant. Today’s ceremony was the culmi-

The production of asphalt requires different sizes of aggregate. The aggregate is locally available but it’s not cheap. PTA Chief Mechanic Adam Respewil who was the only available representative of PTA when we called said that PTA gets black rock aggregate from APSCO at a cost of \$75 per cubic yard. Sand comes from White Sand at \$35 per cubic yard. The liquid asphalt is imported. Resepwil didn’t know the price for the liquid asphalt.

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Bill Jaynes
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(continued from previous page)

He said that PTA has plans for road repairs on Sokehs Island, Kitti, Nett, and U. His statement wasn't comprehensive but he was the only spokesperson available for comment at PTA.

A recent audit of PTA by the Pohnpei Office of the Public Auditor said that since its last audit the Authority has made a dent in the debt that it owes the Pohnpei General Fund but that it still owes in excess of a million dollars.



33 cadets from throughout the FSM participating in FSM Police Academy in Pohnpei

By *Bill Jaynes*
July 17, 2017

Pohnpei, FSM—33 police cadets from throughout the FSM are currently taking part in a rigorous Police Academy which is happening on the grounds of PICS High School. The Academy began with a short ceremony at the PICS High School gym. Pohnpei's Lt. Governor Reed Oliver and FSM President Peter M. Christian were the featured speakers at the ceremony. Both challenged the cadets to work hard and to commit to fully serving and protecting the people in their jurisdictions.

Visiting instructor from Australia, Glenn Verona opened the ceremony with a song on the bagpipes. FSM National Police Chief Johnny M. Santos said that Verona is in charge of the Academy. The National Police provided two staff officers. Kolonia Town, Kosrae, and Pohnpei police departments each provided one staff officer. He said that another instructor will arrive before the Academy is over to teach classes on legal issues of law enforcement.

Chief Santos said that the curriculum for the academy was previously developed in the FSM but that curriculum had been developed for 90 day Police Academies. This year the FSM only had enough money for a 30 day intensive academy. Because of that, the curriculum had to be revised and intensified.

Each day the cadets start physical training at 4:00 in the morning. At 7:00 they break for breakfast and showers and hit the classroom beginning at 8:00. They have a full day of instruction that ends at 4:00 in the afternoon. The evenings are spent studying and preparing for the next day.

Yap and Kosrae each sent three cadets to the Academy. Kolonia Town sent two. Pohnpei and Chuuk each sent five cadets. The National Police sent 15. Only three of the cadets are women.

Chief Santos said that some of the cadets participating in the Academy are new hires in their respective police departments. Many have already been serving as officers in their jurisdictions. The Academy intends to further the professionalization of police departments in the FSM.

Santos said that they will conduct other academies as finances allow.

As soon as the opening ceremony was completed, Academy instructors ran the cadets onto the track and the Academy began immediately.



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Three students from Yap State represent FSM at international high school robotics competition July in Washington DC

Habele

Natasha Loochaz, John Steven Gilinug, and Francis Yarofalyango, comprised Team Micronesia, and joined students from over 150 other nations at the event.

Over several months each team designed, built, and programmed, their own complex robot based on the same simple parts kit, bringing the robots to the FIRST Global Challenge in DC for the matches and exhibition. In the arena, robots were organized into teams of three, battling to quickly gather and sort plastic balls representing clean water and contaminated water.

The team from Yap featured three graduating seniors from Yap Catholic High School, who earned the privilege to compete as an all-star team based on their performance in the Habele Yap Robo League.

In the first round of competition in DC, the FSM Team joined Argentina and Kuwait in a match against Bulgaria, Japan, and Grenada.

Then Micronesia, allied with Vietnam and Australia, battled Cameroon, Chile, and Sudan. The day ended with a match pitting Micronesia, Brazil and Kosovo against China, Bermuda and Bahrain. For the day, the FSM went two for three.

Early the second day Micronesia partnered with Uzbekistan and Bangladesh in a match with Uruguay, Turkmenistan and Norway. They next teamed up with Ghana and Madagascar

opposite Cameroon, Zambia and a pan South American team. Their final match reunited the Micronesians with Kuwait, along side Gabon, to compete with Japan, the Czech Republic, and a pan-Asian team.

The Habele Yap Robo League began in 2011 thanks to Eagle Engineering, the robotics team from Chaminade College Preparatory, a high school in California. Ameilia Weiss, then a Chaminade student, identified the opportunity for high school robotics on Yap during a dive trip to Micronesia. Back at school, she organized donations of robotics parts and instructional materials as a Habele volunteer, getting the League up and running.

Early in 2017 the League was invited to field a team at the FIRST Global event. Over a few short months, the students scrambled to design, assemble, and program, a competition worthy robot from a kit and system very different than the Vex Robotics parts with which they had worked in the past.

Lee Webber, former president and publisher of Guam's Pacific Daily News, sounded the call in an April column about the team's goal to compete in DC, inviting readers across the region to donate toward the costs of provisioning, training, and sending the students.

In addition to several hundred individual donations made by US and FSM citizens through a Habele Go Fund Me webpage, generous corporate support was provided by Tim Waters & Associates, the JoDoCo Group, the Matson Foundation, College of Micronesia, Blue Sky Traders, and United Airlines.

Senators Isaac V. Figir and Joseph Urusemal of the Yap Congressional Delegation made supporting the students a high priority for the Congress of Micronesia. A pair of targeted appropriations was smartly shepherded through the complex federal legislative process to quickly ensure the Team could make it to DC.

Over the course of the FIRST Global event, Team Micronesia earned six match points and 347 competition points. Their final ranking (131st of 163 teams) put them well ahead of more resourced teams from developed nations with widespread robotics, including the United States, the United Kingdom, and France.

The Micronesia team, and their mentor Gilippin Pongliyab, also met with FSM officials in DC, including Deputy Chief of Mission, Mr. James A Naich as well as former Peace Corps Volunteers who served in the Islands and Micronesian citizens living in and around DC.

in addition to the high stakes competitions, Natasha, John, and Francis, participated in elaborate Olympic style opening and closing ceremonies, proudly carrying the



four-stared flag of Micronesia. They also networked at workshops, forums, and team building activities with student teams from around the globe.

"The experience was a great one," said Francis Yarofalyango, known to his Team Micronesia peers as "Cisco." "Participating in the competition was inspiring, especially seeing so many young people pursuing the same goals as I am. Robotics is not only fun but it helps me connect to other people around the world."



Pacific Community
Communauté du Pacifique

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP17-030)

The Pacific Community (SPC) invites proposals from Consultants as Projects Development Specialist to strengthen the capacity of the NDA office to develop the identification, design and preparation of concept notes and proposals for submission to the GCF including the establishment of a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) approach to GCF investments in the Federated States of Micronesia, the provision of training and workshops on project design and formulation, and the establishment of procedures for the screening, assessment and approval of project proposals.

The Request for Proposal (RFP17-030) can be downloaded from the SPC website (<http://www.spc.int/our-work/procurement/>). For any additional information or clarification on the RFP, send e-mail request to procurement@spc.int. The closing date for submission of proposals is 15 August, 2017 no later than 4.00pm Noumea time, and the proposals should be emailed to procurement@spc.int.

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Pohnpeian civil engineer preparing for study in Hokkaido, Japan under Pacific LEADS program

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

July 21, 2017

FSM—Dayn Iehsi has never been to Japan but that is certainly about to change. Under a commitment made by Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe during the 7th Pacific Island Leaders Meeting, Dayn has been awarded a scholarship to Hokkaido University Graduate School. There he will study sustainable construction management.

Dayn graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Illinois. For nearly two years he has worked in the office of the Project Management Unit at the FSM national government. It was his first job after college.

Last year, Alyssa Nakasone was awarded the LEADS scholarship and has been pursuing a Master's Degree in Japan. Her Master's degree will be in health with an emphasis on non-communicable diseases.

The Pacific LEADS program is specifically available for government officials and other key personnel who have the expertise

necessary to solve the development challenges facing Pacific Island Countries and to further strengthen the relationship between the FSM and Japan. It was implemented as part of the Official Development assistance to the government of FSM based on bilateral agreement between both governments. Participants will study in English at Japanese Universities for a Master's Degree within a period of 2 and half years.

Resident Representative of the Japan International Cooperation Agency, Shinji Shibata said that there were more scholarships available but that, though the opportunity to study for a Master's Degree with all expenses paid is magnificent, it has been difficult to find applicants. The reason, he said, is because the study period is for two and a half years but governments within the FSM can only grant leave for study for a maximum period of one year. They cannot hold positions open for longer than that period



has never travelled beyond Guam to the east and Illinois to the west. He will leave Pohnpei for Okinawa on August 15 where he will undergo a rigorous orientation. When that orientation is completed he will leave Okinawa for Hokkaido, Japan's northern most island. It is the second largest and least developed island in Japan. It is known for its harsh winter weather with sub-zero temperatures so cold that the ocean frequently freezes. He said that he is psychologically

preparing himself for that though, having studied in Illinois, he is no stranger to cold winters.

He said that he has been in email contact with Alyssa Nakasone who has been giving him information on Japan and encouraging him as he prepares for his two and a half year study experience.

He intends to come back to the FSM and offer his services again.

of time. This means that applicants have to resign in order to take advantage of the study opportunity. It makes it difficult but graduates will come back to the FSM with more marketable skills to offer.

"I hope that you will promote this experience to the people of the FSM," Shibata said. "There is only one year left in the program."

Iehsi, who is 25 years old said that he

...Swimming

Continued from front page

FSM representatives were set to occur.

Augustine will be swimming the 50 meter Freestyle on July 28, the same event in which he competed in the Rio Olympics last summer.

13 year old Kestra Kihleng will be swimming her first event on the 28th as well, the 50 meter Butterfly and will finish events on the 29th with the 50 meter Freestyle.

The FSM swimming team was accompanied by FSM Swimming Federation President Sweeter Daniel, Coach Derek Daniel, JICA Coach Akifuma Takahashi and wife Hiromi, and Team Support member, Susan Kihleng.

Susan Kihleng, who provided the information for this article said that she travelled to Budapest at her own expense to accompany her 13 year old daughter and her 17 year old son to the other side of the world. She said that her children have trained twice a day, six days a week at the Pohnpei pool for quite a while.

Kihleng is not a coach and had no say in the selection of her children who together amounted to two thirds of the FSM team, but she is understandably proud of their personal accomplishments.

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The outcomes of the swimming races for Augustine and for debuting swimmer in the international arena, Kestra Kihleng will be determined after this newspaper has gone to press.

The FSM team will be enjoying some sightseeing time in the beautiful city of Budapest as well as a lunch with the rest of the Oceania Swimming Association teams over the weekend before beginning the three days of flights home to Pohnpei on August 1. The team will return to the island on August 4.

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Summer of Fun and Learning at Peace Corps - DOE Model School

By Lucas Arribas Layton

July 25, 2017

Pohnpei—If you have passed by Nett Elementary School during the month of July, the activity level may have surprised you during what is usually a quiet summer holiday month. School age kids, along with Micronesian and American teachers, could be seen to be engaging in a variety of educational activities, including singing, role playing, dancing, scavenger hunts, creative writing, artistic expression, exploring local myths and legends, and other activities focused on strengthening English language comprehension and usage.

The US Peace Corps, in partnership with Pohnpei State Department of Education (PDOE) and the College of Micronesia (COM) sponsored a 6-week professional development course for 19 local teachers and 19 American Peace Corps Trainees, including a 3 week Model School program for over 100 local elementary school students hosted at Nett Elementary School. The activities were part of a larger 10-week Pre-Service Training that all Peace Corps Volunteers receive to help prepare them for a 2-year term of service. In Micronesia, Peace Corps Volunteers work in Elementary Schools as co-Teachers focused on Language Arts and community development in all four states of FSM. This year the volunteers are spending their first ten weeks as Trainees in the Nett/ Kolonia area. They will swear-in and depart for their assigned schools in mid-August.



The Peace Corps Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL) professional development program is in its sixth year. It offers teachers in Pohnpei public schools the opportunity to join Peace Corps Trainees to participate in sessions focused on different approaches to teaching English. Those approaches include lesson planning, co-planning and co-teaching, vocabulary and reading, grammar and writing, speaking and listening skills, differentiated teaching, classroom motivation and management, early learners, FSM Accreditation, critical thinking, FSM Standards and Benchmarks, extra-curricular activities, and formative and summative assessments. All participants engage in the three-week teaching practicum

where they demonstrate new skills learned from the course while co-planning and co-teaching in a Peace Corps Trainee/Host Country National partnership during Model School.

"I love the plan of co-teaching and co-planning, because it makes the job more interesting, fun, and helps us manage our time wisely, share new strategies, skills, and workload," one of the local teachers said.

Although Peace Corps has been present in Micronesia since 1966, training locations and activities vary from year to year. The Peace Corps, PDOE, and COM have collaborated to offer a Model School professional development program here in

Pohnpei since 2012, but this is the first time Peace Corps has held this training in Nett since 2014. Members of the local community are housing the Peace Corps Trainees and helping them to learn about local culture and the Pohnpeian language.

The purpose of the training and practicum is to prepare Peace Corps Trainees to serve in Micronesian classrooms, to help build the capacity of local teachers, and to offer local students the opportunity to participate in a fun safe learning environment where they can practice English language skills in a student centered classroom. All Peace Corps Trainees have at minimum a 4-year college degree, and by the time they are sworn in, will have completed the intensive 10-week pre-service training; however, for some, this Model School has provided them their first opportunity to teach in a formal classroom setting.

Peace Corps is a United States Government Agency dedicated to promoting world peace and friendship. Since its founding by John F Kennedy in 1961, more than 250,000 Americans have served as Peace Corps Volunteers in over 140 countries world-wide, including more than 6,000 in Micronesia.



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...Nepalese Refugees

Continued from front page

a nation with a democratic legal system. Additionally, FSM National police officers were in hearing distance during the interview which may have served as an unintentional intimidating factor.

Marstella Jack represented the men on a pro bono basis because "it needed to be done" she told us after filing the action. The court ruled that Jack had been properly authorized by an oral agreement to represent them.

The government had argued that the men were under 24 hour guard both for the men's own protection and for the protection of the FSM community. However, the ruling said that background checks had been conducted by the US Federal Bureau of Investigation which determined that the refugees were not a national security risk or danger to the public.

It is unclear who may have authorized the FBI, which doesn't have jurisdiction in the FBI, to conduct a background check. Just the same, the ruling also went on to say that the men had also undergone medical examinations and were found to pose no health threat to the community. It said that additionally several local community members had expressed the desire to sponsor the refugees and the UNHCR had provided the funding to ensure that the refugees would not be a burden on the state during their stay.

"The refugees have expressed a sincere desire to participate in the cultural life of the community, to move about, to attend church and to visit freely with friends," the heavily footnoted 20 page ruling says.

According to the ruling, the government said during the hearing on June 7 that "there is crime in Palikir, even murder, and confinement to the apartment is necessary for the protection of the Refugees themselves." As such, the government said they would continue 24 hour confinement in the three bedroom house to which they re-located on the day of the hearing.

Jack argued that the Refugees should be without any restrictions whatsoever and that they should be treated the same as any other citizen.

"The court is not convinced that no restrictions are necessary, reasonable and proportionate under these circumstances, nor is it convinced that 24 hour security

is necessary. Accordingly the court finds that a curfew with regular reporting the appropriate level of restriction," the ruling said.

The court also ruled that the confiscation of communication devices including a tablet computer and a cell phone are "not germane to the protection of the refugees, nor does such property have any health or security implication to the FSM." It ordered the FSM to give the devices back to the men.

The court did not agree with Jack's assertion that the FSM acted to confine the men based on racial discrimination. "This is a case of first impression for the FSM," it said. "The court recognizes that the failure of the Government to apply these international standards was the result of uncertainty in what appears to be a legal void...In the absence of express legislation regarding refugees, however, the Government need look no further than our own criminal procedures and substantially apply them with the administrative law context to guarantee compliance with due process under the FSM Constitution and international law."

"All people, regardless of whether they are a citizen of a state, or of no state at all, have the right to seek asylum in other countries and live free from persecution. In articulating these rights we look to the Constitution of the FSM and to the body of international law which can be found in international custom, general principles, judicial decisions and treaties," the ruling said.

"Accordingly, the court finds that confinement for over two years, without due process, is an extraordinary circumstance and the writ of habeus corpus is granted.

"It is hereby ordered that the refugees are released from detention and free to move about subject to the following restrictions which are necessary, reasonable and proportionate for the own safety while here in the FSM", it said.

The court ruled that the men would be subject to a curfew from 7:00 PM to 7:00 AM each day during which they will be confined to their apartment in Palikir but are otherwise free to move about during the daytime hours on their own recognizance. It ruled that the men will be required to report to the government once every two weeks. It ordered the government to promptly file a notice with the court if it becomes necessary to change the residence of the refugees. It ruled that there would be no restriction on visitation during daytime hours but that they could not have overnight guests or visitors during curfew hours.

Biogas workshop in Pohnpei

On July 20, 2017 there was a big get-together on FSM Pilot Farm in Pohnpei. People who have a biogas digester in Pohnpei enthusiastically came to the Farm to attend the workshop to be trained in biogas maintenance, trouble shooting and safety measures. They were warmly welcomed and treated with delicious local food and fresh watermelons from the farm. Thanks to the excellent preparatory work made by the Chinese Technicians Team and Agriculture Division of R & D, this activity was a great success.



Chinese and Pohnpeian technicians presented the well prepared training course to the attentive trainees



Interactive activity is going on heatedly with many questions raised by trainees with keen interest and answered satisfactorily by Chinese technicians with patience.

Pohnpei Port Authority trains Kolonia Town fire fighters



By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

July 21, 2017

Pohnpei—On July 21, 10 trainees from the Kolonia Town Police Department completed two months of intensive fire safety training conducted by firefighters from the Airport Rescue Fire Fighters unit (ARFF) of the Pohnpei Port Authority.

The training culminated with a controlled live fire extinguishing experience at the Pohnpei International Airport.

Kolonia Town spokesperson, Vitus Susaia said that on May 11, the 9th Kolonia Town Council passed an ordinance creating a Fire Division within the Kolonia Town Government. Jose San Nicolas signed the ordinance, making it law on May 18.

He said that the move was prompted by fires within the last year that inflicted serious damage on houses and other properties in Kolonia Town.

“An agreement was reached between Kolonia Town Government and Pohnpei Port Authority to conduct a two month training on both practical drills and basic theories on fire prevention,” he said.

The first group of 10 officers completed their training on July 21. A second group of 10 officers is currently being trained.

“The Office of the Mayor placed a high priority on creating this fire division so that fire fighters from Kolonia Town Government could be first responders to fire and other disasters within the boundaries of Kolonia Town,” he said.



Yap's 8th Annual Canoe Festival Announced: Rich Heritage of Traditional Seafaring to be Celebrated December 8 and 9

Yap Visitor's Bureau

Celebrating the rich heritage of traditional seafaring in the Pacific region of Micronesia, the Yap Visitors Bureau, in partnership with the Yap Traditional Navigation Society, has announced that the 8th annual Yap Canoe Festival will be held December 8 & 9, 2017 in Colonia. The two days of festivities will take place at the Yap Living History Museum and will include a parade of traditional sailing canoes, dances, skills demonstrations and a marketplace offering food and handicrafts for sale.

Micronesian scholar and filmmaker Dr. Eric Metzgar will provide the keynote address and present his video, *A Voyaging Odyssey*, featuring highlights from the 2010 ocean voyages captained by Pwo Master Navigator Ali Haleyalur and Master Canoe Carver Chief Bruno Tharngan. The ocean crossings "rediscovered" the ancient, traditional sea routes between the islands of Lamotrek, Guam, Yap and Palau.

"We are excited that Dr. Metzgar will

be joining us along with Ali Haleyalur and Chief Tharngan," said Don Evans, General Manager of the Yap Visitors Bureau. "Dr. Metzgar has spent many years on the Outer Islands of Yap studying the art and history of traditional sailing and is a leading expert in the field."

Voyaging canoe rides will be offered on Friday, December 8th followed that evening by the traditional dances of Yap that are renowned throughout the region.

On Saturday, December 9th, a photographic exhibit of Yap's seafaring history along with other exhibits will be on display. Visitors will also have the rare opportunity to taste the traditional offertory, voyaging, and celebratory foods connected with successful long sea voyages. "This year's Canoe Festival promises to be a not-to-be-



Photo by Brad Holland

missed experience for not only canoeists but anyone interested in learning more about the seafaring history and traditions of these remote Pacific islands," adds Evans.

For more information, visit www.visityap.com or email Tom Tamangmow at the Yap Visitors Bureau at tomyvb@mail.fm or by phone at (691) 350-2298.



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FSM first in the Pacific to progress a Country Program for the Green Climate Fund

July 18 to 21, Tonga: the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Pacific Structured Dialogue was attended by 140 regional delegates, where it was announced that the FSM is the first country in the Pacific to present a draft Country Program to the Green Climate Fund. The Country Program is a key document that can progress large-scale adaptation and mitigation projects and programs to strengthen the FSM's adaptive capacity to climate change.

The FSM is one of the 46 countries that have received GCF readiness grants to strengthen their engagement with the Fund. Upon finalisation of its Country Program, The FSM will join Zambia and Antigua & Barbuda as one of only three countries in the world to have a country program that will maximise access to the largest climate fund in the world. With over USD 10 billion in pledges, the fund is almost twice the size of the Adaptation Fund, and three times larger than the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) trust funds.

The FSM Country Program has been in development since the inception workshop in November 2016. From March to April 2017, States-based workshops were held to prioritise adaptation and mitigation projects from the already endorsed plans of the Joint State Action Plans on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management, the Infrastructure Development Plan and the FSM Over-seas Development Assistance Priorities listing for 2016 to 2018. A final workshop to validate the 'green growth' oriented Country Program and its projects portfolio is scheduled to be held from August 9 to 10 in Pohnpei State.

The GCF Secretariat and Board members

congratulated the Honorable Sihna N Lawrence (the FSM Secretary for the Department of Finance and Administration and National Designated Authority to the Green Climate Fund,) and her readiness team for a job well done and for the country's continued efforts and commitment towards a clean and green FSM.

Congratulations are also extended to the Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT) on their recent accreditation to the Green Climate Fund, highlighting yet another 'first' for the FSM; MCT is the first civil society organisation to gain direct access in the Pacific region. Along with its numerous local NGO partners, the MCT has extensive and long-standing experience in strengthening the resilience of small island communities. The accreditation of the MCT to the GCF as well as the prominence given to local NGO work in the Country Program should result in the much-needed institutional and funding strengthening of local NGOs to effectively deliver adaptation projects for, and with, communities in the FSM.

The GCF was established in 2010 by UNFCCC to help developing countries adapt to climate impacts and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Fund provides early support for readiness and preparatory activities to strengthen a country's engagement with the fund. It focuses its readiness support on particularly vulnerable countries, including Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and African states. The FSM government would like to extend its gratitude to the GCF for co-funding its readiness program and the development of the Country Program.



The Hon. Sihna Lawrence, NDA to the GCF (first row, second to left), Lisa Ranahan Andon from the MCT (third row) and Mr Kensley Ikosia of the FSM Readiness Program (fourth row).

Local food flour mill distribution and workshops held by IFCP

By Island Food Community of Pohnpei

Pohnpei—Two workshops being held by Island Food Community of Pohnpei (IFCP) on Pingelap and Pakin completed the distribution of Flour Milling machines project funded by U.S. DOI awarded to IFCP to purchase manual local food flour milling machines, locally fabricate mill, distribute to all Municipalities and Islands in Pohnpei, and train community members on processing local food flour and operating the milling machines.

The Acting Director of IFCP, Emihner Johnson joins the Public Health Outreach Team, a team formed by the Chief of Public Health, Dr. Eliaser Johnson to a pilot program improve the health services in the communities in Madolenihmw and Pingelap. The team left for Pingelap on June 23 via Caroline Island Air (CIA) and as soon as we arrived, the workshop with the community leaders kicked off. The workshop continued for two days. The members of the team consisted of representatives from World Health Organization (WHO), IFCP, and Public Health programs staff. IFCP conducted the workshop with 90 participants including women, children, and men on one of the small isles of Pingelap where Lien Alim of Pingelap had their picnic. The workshop included the demonstration of operating the machine, the process of local food milling which included preparation and sun-drying, and grinding the

dried chips of local foods into flour. Also presented at the workshop were the nutrient contents of the local food flours that show tremendous amount vitamins and minerals compared to imported white flour sold at our stores. The milling machine is now located at the Pingelap Municipal Office and can be made available by contacting the Mayor's Office in Pingelap.

A special thank you the people of Pingelap, especially the women's group for an inspirational weekend of experiencing and sharing the tradition of Pingelap courtesy.

A similar workshop of operation of the flour milling machine and the process of turning local foods such as breadfruit, banana, giant swamp taro, etc into flour was conducted by Mrs. Emihner Johnson, IFCP Director to the community of Pakin. This workshop was held on July 19, 2017 on Pakin. After the demonstration, participants of the workshop took turns converting breadfruit into flour. The milling machine for Pakin community is now located and can be available for use at the Pakin Community Nahs with Soulik.

IFCP would like to thank Sohmake Mr. Sakies Lawrence and Soulik and Kedilik, Mr. & Mrs. Maipi for organizing the Pakin workshop and the people of Pakin for coming out to learn about the local food flour processing and utilizing the milling machine for Pakin.

EU and SPC agreement supports FSM, Marshall Islands and Palau to build resilience to El Niño

20 July 2017

Suva, Fiji—The European Union (EU) and the Pacific Community have signed an agreement to build resilience to future El Niño related droughts in the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Marshall Islands and Republic of Palau.

At the end of 2016, the EU confirmed its decision to mobilise € 4.5 million from the European Development Fund (EDF) global reserve for the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palau to build resilience for future El Niño events.

This is in recognition of the severe impacts of the 2015–2016 El Niño related drought in the three Northern Pacific countries, especially in the outer islands, when disruptions to agriculture, tourism and industrial production caused severe economic losses, many households faced food and water shortages, and the provision of health and education services was severely impacted.

The Head of Infrastructure and Natural Resources at the Delegation of the EU for the Pacific, Jesús LAVINA, said "the EU is committed to support the Pacific countries to face the negative impact of climate change.

Extreme events, such as the 2015-2016 El

Niño, severely affected the Pacific region: the EU works together with partner governments and regional organisations to answer in a timely manner their urgent needs. The "European Union North Pacific Readiness for El Niño project" is a clear example of EU commitment that covers a large range of EU funded actions to strengthen resilience and promote climate change adaptation and mitigation measures."

The Pacific Community (SPC) is implementing the project and is preparing to hold consultations with the North Pacific countries to design activities that will build resilience to future droughts in the water and agriculture sectors.

The Director-General of the Pacific Community, Dr Colin Tukuitonga, said "We are very pleased to help build capacity in the three Northern Pacific countries to strengthen resilience and readiness for future El Niño related droughts, which past experience has shown caused so many hardships for all residents, both those living in towns and those in rural communities."

The 2015–2016 El Niño event was one of the most severe on record, comparable with the 1997-1998 and 1982-1983

Employment



Opportunities

The College of Micronesia-FSM is searching for qualified candidates to fill the following positions:

College of Micronesia – FSM Mission Statement :The College of Micronesia-FSM is a learner-centered institution of higher education that is committed to the success of the Federated States of Micronesia by providing academic and career & technical educational programs characterized by continuous improvement and best practices.

Values:



Positions

- Student Services Assistant
- Instructor-Computer/Mathematics
- Director of Institutional Effectiveness Office

Location

- National Campus
- Yap Campus
- National Campus

Annual Salary Range

- \$5,955.00
- \$16,131.00-\$17,819.00
- \$30,168.00

Closing Date

- Until fill
- Until fill
- Until fill

Detailed information is available at: <http://www.comfsm.fm/?q=hr-jobs>. Serious inquiries can be made to the Human Resources Office at email address hro@comfsm.fm and telephone number (691) 320-2482 extension numbers 130, 131, 192 or visit us at www.comfsm.fm.

University of Scranton Honors Yap Catholic High School Principal

Yap Catholic High School

Colonia, YAP. The University of Scranton in Scranton, PA honored Michael Wiencek, principal of Yap Catholic High School, with the Frank J. O'Hara Recent Graduate Award at the university's annual O'Hara Celebration during Alumni Weekend on June 9. The Frank J. O'Hara Distinguished Alumni Award is the highest award bestowed jointly by the University and The Alumni Society. This

award honors select alumni who embody Scranton's Catholic and Jesuit experience and who have achieved distinction in their professional or personal endeavors. Honorees are selected based on the nominees' commitment to Ignatian values and their pursuit of professional and personal excellence. The Frank J. O'Hara Recent Graduate Award presented to Wiencek is given to an alumnus/a who has graduated within the past ten years. The recipient will have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to service for others in their personal or professional achievements, which embody Scranton's Catholic and Jesuit values.



First Aid in the islands

Our First Aid & CPR Program

The Micronesia Red Cross Society (MRCS) was established in 1998 in the Federated States of Micronesia. In 2002 the First Aid & CPR Program was established with the assistance of New Zealand Red Cross Society. MRCS can now provide certified training in First Aid & CPR to members of the public, government employees, private businesses, students and other groups. The First Aid & CPR program is a well trusted service that provides basic life support trainings. MRCS is the preferred humanitarian organization by the FSM National Health & Social Affairs, to provide First Aid & CPR trainings that are based on Pacific First Aid Curriculum.

Our Aims

- Saving lives in times of disaster.
- Enable a Healthy & Safe Living.
- Promote the prevention & reduction of vulnerability, social inclusion, culture of non-violence and peace.

Course Facts & Fees

- Full attendance and successful assessment for all topics of the course are to be completed before getting a certification.
- Full payment of \$45 per person with 10 or more participants.
- Full payment of \$90 per person for a training that is less than 10 participants.

Instructors

Micronesia Red Cross Society have a wide range of experience. They all have



successfully completed the trainings as required by the Pacific First Aid Management Committee. Annual revalidation of instructors Certification is required, including a performance audit, training days and minimal instruction hours.

Refund Policy

The Micronesia Red Cross Society will make sure appropriate financial arrangements are in place to guarantee the refund of fees when the course is cancelled/discontinued, or the student has a viable reason for discontinuing the course.

Student Information

Prior to enrollment, Micronesia Red Cross Society provides all students undertaking First Aid course with accurate, relevant and up to date course information which includes but is not limited to:

- Strict adherence to curriculum.
- Documentation with respect to content, delivery assessment.
- Provision of suitable facilities for students to learn in.
- Provision of all equipment and materials needed to support the specified learning.
- Assistance as is practical to people who's identified with disability or difficulty learning.

This program is very important to our islands, since we are one nation connected by the ocean with so many unexpected disasters coming our way. We are fortunate to have this program on our islands, that can help us or teach us how to approach unexpected accidents. This First Aid & CPR Program is here to help us, so if you or your office, community, school, other group is interested in this program, see the contact information below to move you forward in getting certified in this program.



CONTACT INFORMATION:

P.O. Box 2405
 Kolonia Pohnpei 96941
 Phone: 691-320-7077
 Fax: 691-320-6531
 Email: mrcs@mail.fm

- Micronesia Red Cross Society
- Micronesia Red Cross Update
- Micronesia Red Cross

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Fall 2017

- August 3, 2017 8am-9am New, Returning & transfer Students Orientation Sign Up
- August 3, 2017 9am-12pm New, Returning & Transfer Students Mandatory Orientation
- August 3, 2017 1pm-4pm New, Returning & Transfer Students Enrollment/Registration
- August 4, 2017 9am-4pm New Students orientation continuation
- August 9-11, 2017 9am-4pm Fall Regular Registration
- August 14, 2017 First day of Instruction

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 Phone: (691)320-2480
 Fax: (691)320-2479
 E-Mail: national@comfsm.fm

Chuuk Campus
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 Chuuk, FM 96942
 Phone: (691)330-2689
 Fax: (691)330-2740
 E-Mail: chuuk@comfsm.fm

FSM-FMI
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 Phone: (691)350-5244
 Fax: (691)350-5245
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Kosrae Campus
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 Fax: (691)370-3193
 E-Mail: kosrae@comfsm.fm

Pohnpei Campus
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 Kolonia Pohnpei, FM 96941
 Phone: (691)320-3795
 Fax: (691)320-3799
 E-Mail: pohnpei@comfsm.fm

Yap Campus
 P.O. Box 286
 Colonia Yap, FM 96943
 Phone: (691)350-2296/5149
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www.comfsm.fm

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Yap Campus conducts successful 2017 summer science fair

Yap Campus - COM-FSM

Yinuf, Yap – On July 14, 2017, a Science Fair was held at Yap Campus with the theme “Expanding Creativity and Interest in Science in our Young Adults.” The purpose of the science fair was to encourage and promote student interests’ and involvement in science education and careers especially in agriculture, marine science, food sciences, and natural resources. In her welcome remarks, Dean Lourdes Roboman highlighted that the science fair also demonstrated the collaboration and effort between the college and high schools in Yap, “that we are all working toward the same goal: to educate our young children today to be tomorrow’s future.”

Twelve students from Yap Catholic High School presented four science projects, ten students from SDA school presented 3 science projects, thirty-eight Upward Bound students from Yap High School presented four science projects, and seven students representing Yap High School presented three science projects. Also on display were youths participating in the Yap CRE summer Arts and Crafts program where they are learning techniques in wood carving. A Robotics demonstration by the Yap Catholic High School students was also an attraction of the fair. More than three hundred visitors including participants from the four states attending the Micronesia Teacher Education Conference were able to witness the excellent work and display that students presented that covered many topics and issues relating to climate change, environment, agriculture, and natural resources management.

Each individual project was ranked

by five judges in areas of creativity, scientific thought, thoroughness, and clarity. Prizes were awarded to the following project/group:

- 1st Place – Seaweed Compost, Yap Catholic High School students Hans Banua and Myla Mailing for \$300 cash and \$100 Gift Certificate
- 2nd place – Plastic Housing, Seventh Day Adventist school students Jonathon Haleyesemal, Valencia Gamangin, Lorainlynn Buliche Sinem, and Hannah Joyce Hernandez for \$200 cash and \$50 Gift Certificate
- 3rd place – Climate Change, Yap Catholic High School students Giselle Giyetinag, Candis Tiningdow, and Mayah Torwan for \$100 cash and \$50 Gift Certificate

A group was also awarded a prize for “Crowd’s Favorite” - SDA students Jonathon Haleyesemal, Valencia Gamangin, Lorainlynn Buliche Sinem, and Hannah Joyce Hernandez won this award for their project “Plastic Housing”. Consolation prizes and certificates of participation were also given out to all student participants in the fair for their hard work.

The COM-FSM Yap Campus would like to thank and recognize the following for their support and contributions for cash prizes – Bank of FSM, EMI Enterprises, Island Fashion, New Mart, and Senator Nicholas Figirlaarwon.

Special thanks to the USAID/PACAM Project Climate Adaptive Agriculture Resilience and Yap Cooperative Association for providing Gift Certificates for prizes, and for Yap Health Services, Community Ayuw Services, and Bank of Guam for donating items for consolation prizes.

Support for the science fair was also provided by the USDA-NIFA Resident Instruction in the Insular Areas grant, through the College of Micronesia-FSM Cooperative Research and Extension.

First Place winners Hans Banua and Myla Mailing receiving their award certificates, \$300 cash prize, and a \$100 gift certificate donated by the USAID-PACAM Climate Adaptive Agriculture and Resilience Project, with Yap Campus Dean Lourdes Roboman and Steven Young-Uhk, Coordinator of Cooperative Research and Extension, Yap Campus.



Micronesia, Seabees strengthen relationship with health clinic opening



170725-N-SD965-001

KOSRAE, Federated States of Micronesia (July 25, 2017) Key community leaders and Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1 pose for a photo in front of the Walung Health Clinic during a ribbon cutting ceremony on the island of Kosrae, Federated States of Micronesia, July 25, 2017. NMCB 1 is forward deployed to execute construction, humanitarian and foreign assistance, special operations combat service support, and theater security cooperation in support of U.S. Pacific Command. (U.S. Navy photo provided/Released)

By Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Brannon Deugan

July 26, 2017

NAVAL STATION ROTA, Spain -A ribbon cutting ceremony was held in Walung Village on the island of Kosrae, Federated States of Micronesia, to dedicate and turnover the Walung Health Clinic to the Federated States of Micronesia, July 25, 2017.

The ceremony signified Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1’s completion of the 792 square foot structure that started in February, and was attend by key community leaders and more than 100 villagers.

“Walung Clinic is an important memento to the relationship between the United States and Federated States of Micronesia,” said the Honorary Robert Riley, U.S. ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia.

During the ceremony, the Walung choir sang a dedication song, and the clinic was formally opened to the public. The clinic will serve as a local health care facility and provider of clean drinking water for the 600 local villagers.

A crew of nine Sailors and four local construction apprentices constructed the five room clinic in support of the Kosrean Health Department. Seabees often work hand-in-hand with host nation engineering forces and local civilians in order to enhance interoperability and skills transfer.

The project consists of a concrete slab, a construction masonry unit wall, wooden trusses, metal roof, utilities, water catchment system, prefabricated plastic septic tank and a leach field.

“I’m proud of the crew and the hard work they put in,” said Builder 1st Class Adam Merrill, NMCB 1 Detail Micronesia operations lead. “They worked hand-in-hand with the locals to give the villagers a top notch clinic.”

Naval Construction Force assets working in the U.S. Pacific Fleet area of responsibility are excellent resources which aid in developing and strengthening relationships with the international community, and the work Seabees are doing in the Pacific builds upon our active and enduring presence in the region. The U.S. has been sending Civic Construction Action Details (CCAD) to the Federated States of Micronesia for a long time to continue to build the partnership between the two countries.

“The efforts of NMCB 1, affectionately known to us on the island as the Seabees, are a testament to the partnership between our nations,” said the Honorary Lyndon Jackson, governor of Kosrae. “CCAD teams have been coming to Kosrae since 1969 and this team continues to leave a positive lasting impact on the people of Kosrae. Thank you NMCB 1.”

REACH Healthy Nutrition and Tobacco Pledge

As the REACH project in Pohnpei continues through Year 3, efforts were made recently by the Pohnpei Comprehensive Cancer Control Program to visit the heads of various Pohnpei State Departments, offices and agencies to review the reasons why Pohnpei State declared a State of Emergency in 2013 for Non-Communicable Diseases and get support from the state leadership to commit their offices to work toward a healthier workforce.

Specifically, these offices will now support the development of a nutrition policy in their office to promote the consumption of local, health food to be served during meetings and workshops. They will serve healthy beverages including water, coconut water, madeu or other healthy beverages at their gathering, and they will enforce the Clean Indoor Air Act of 1994 which states that there will be no smoking inside all government offices and public settings, including churches, traditional houses (nahs), cars, boats, etc. No smoking signs will be posted to ensure the public is aware of this law and the dangers of smoking.

Pohnpei's Governor led the way in signing this pledge previous to having the department heads sign. The following Pohnpei State office leaders recently signed the "Healthy Nutrition and Tobacco Pledge" committing the

following state offices towards making Pohnpei a healthier place to live and work:

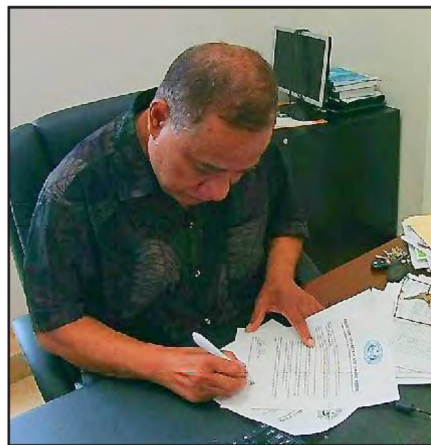
Director, DOE
 Director, Dept of Land and Natural Resources Acting GM, PUC
 Director, Department of Resources and Development Public Affairs Officer,
 Acting Executive Director, Housing Authority Acting General Manager,
 Pohnpei Port Authority Public Auditor
 Administrator, Transportation & Infrastructure

Acting Administrator, Office of Fisheries and Aquaculture Director of Treasury and Administration
 Commissioner, Pohnpei State Transportation Authority
 Executive Director, EPA
 Director, Department of Public Safety

Thanks to all of these state leaders for signing the pledge and guiding us in setting an example of living a healthier life. Previously in Year 1 and 2, the REACH project has gotten support from both church and traditional leadership to sign similar pledges. Now almost all of Pohnpei State leadership has signed this pledge and all have agreed to work towards helping the people of Pohnpei live healthier.



-Director of DOE, Mr. Churchill Edwards
 -Director of R&D, Mr. Nick Solomon



China pledges to improve life in Pacific countries and grow island economies through the One Belt One Road project

Bank of China (New Zealand) Limited

China's One Belt One Road project heralds a new era of rapid development for Pacific countries, says the Bank of China.

The fourth largest global bank hosted representatives from eight Pacific Island countries in a tour of China last month to learn more about One Belt One Road and the opportunities it offers. It is the first international financial seminar held by Bank of China for Pacific island countries. The seminar is focused on economic and social development in terms of poverty elimination, rural reform, agricultural industrialization, construction of industrial park and SMEs development.

China's President Xi Jinping has called one Belt One Road 'the project of the century', with a vision to spend close to US\$1trillion on trade, cooperation and infrastructure along the old Silk Road trade route from China to Europe overland (the belt) and along China's maritime shipping routes (the road).

One Belt One Road is about promoting cooperation and working to build a community of shared interests and responsibility. It is underpinned by five main pillars - policy coordination; facilities connectivity; unimpeded trade; financial integration; and people to people bonds.

Countries attending the seminar were Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Samoa, Tonga, the Cook Islands and Niue. Ministers of Finance, Ministers of Commerce and Trade, senior managers from financial institutions and trade associations and large corporations visited Beijing and Shanghai.

David Lei Wang, CEO of Bank of China (New Zealand) Ltd said: 'Relations

between China and Pacific countries are entering a new period of rapid development. We are inviting Pacific countries to get on the express train of China's development and improve their social and economic outcomes.'

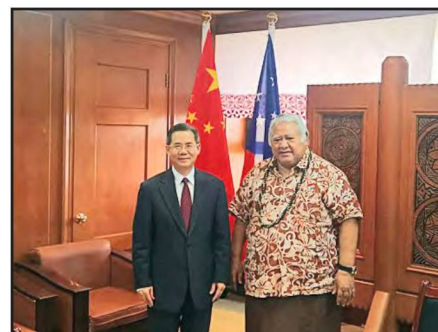
The seminar discussed China development patterns and practices, infrastructure construction, agricultural development, SME development, sustainable development, environmental protection, green tourism, international economic and financial situation and other topics.

Minister of Finance and Administration of the FSM, Ms Shina Lawrence, in her speech, said that the seminar was a platform to strengthen cooperation and achieve sustainable development.

During their stay in China, the Pacific island representatives visited Donghai bridge, Yangshan deepwater port, Shanghai Zhenhua Heavy Industries, The Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China and Taicaing modern agriculture Park to get a deeper understanding of their operations.

Representatives also visited cultural sites including the Forbidden City, the Great Wall and the National Grand Theatre.

A number of infrastructure projects are already underway through One Belt One Road, including an agreement for technical assistance from China to help develop Samoa's sports facilities, which was sealed during a visit by the Vice Foreign Minister of China Zheng Zeguang to Samoa in May 2017. Key areas for cooperation between China and Samoa and investment include trade, tourism and infrastructure.



China Vice Foreign Minister with PM of Samoa



Shina Lawrence

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"So glad this place has re-opened and is where I will stay from now on in Chuuk." - Apr 6, 2016

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In 2015, the Vital Group embarked on the development of a new Vision, Mission and Strategic Framework to ensure the continuing success of our company. This 10-year framework is known as Voyaging Together 2025, or "VT2025," and includes 17 core strategy objectives that will drive our company towards meaningful and measurable results. The VT2025 strategy will allow Vital the growth and the commercial viability necessary to achieve our Vision of becoming the largest provider of lifeline energy products and services in Micronesia.

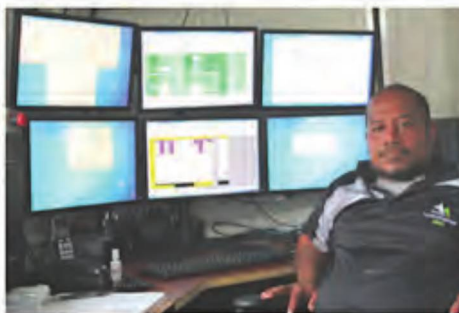
**WE ASKED OUR STAFF:
IN A FEW WORDS,
WHAT DOES THE
VOYAGING TOGETHER 2025
STRATEGY MEAN TO YOU?**



"direction" "lifeline" "future goals"
-Sancherina Salle, Economic Analyst



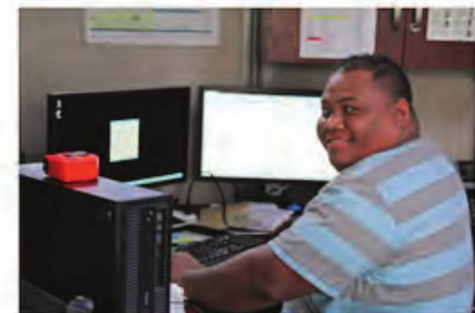
"a brighter future" "motivating people" "hope"
-Irene Ongesel Etse, Head Office Receptionist



"working together" "saving for the future"
-Rickson Kulat, Nan Pohnmahl Powerplant Operator



"our future"
"a growing, bigger company"
-Mariunard Martin, Pohnpei Terminal Operator



"teamwork" "hard work" "honesty"
-Burton Charley, ICT Technical Support Officer

