

# Taiyo Micronesia holds ribbon cutting ceremony for fish meal and dried skipjack plant in Dekehtik

By *Bill Jaynes*  
 The Kaselehlie Press

February 2, 2018  
 Pohnpei—Taiyo

Micronesia Corporation (TMC) held a ribbon cutting ceremony in Dekehtik this afternoon for a “katsuobushi” (dried, fermented, smoked skipjack tuna) and feed meal processing plant on the premises of the cold storage plant.

National Fisheries Corporation (NFC) CEO Peter Sitan said that the plant is not yet in commercial operation pending approval of some permits that are in process. It is also awaiting the arrival of a larger feed mill that he said should

arrive within two months. He said that the plan then would be to produce and sell feed meal in the local market first in Pohnpei and then potentially in the other states. He said that the feed for livestock would be less expensive than imported feed. Katsuobushi, a quintessential topping in Japanese cuisine would be primarily for export.

The plant is a TMC and NFC joint venture. Sitan said that the plant currently employs 10 local employees but that after it is in full operation will hire 10 more employees.

Among others, FSM dignitaries at the ceremony included FSM President Peter M. Christian, FSM Resources and Development Secretary Marion Henry, Lieutenant Governor Reed



See “Ribbon Cutting” on page 10

## FSMTC and newly formed Submarine Cable Company, FSMT Cable Corporation sign landmark long term facility sharing and capacity agreement

FSMT Cable Corporation, the country’s newly established Open Access Entity (OAE), and FSMTC, the country’s incumbent full-service telecommunications company, entered into an IRU Deed Agreement this past Friday February 2nd, 2018 in Pohnpei.

The agreement is the culmination of arduous work by the parties, as well as members of the FSM Congress, the Office of the President, the Department of Finance & Administration, the Department of Transportation, Communication & Infrastructure, and many others including key stakeholders in each of the FSM states. This agreement establishes the shared use of the sole existing submarine cable to FSM, HANTRU-1, as well as the close cooperation of the parties in the efficient use of the new submarine cables for Yap, Chuuk and Kosrae, and the FSMTC facilities required to connect them to all the states of FSM. As the provider of international and domestic broadband connectivity solutions to the telecommunications industry in FSM, FSMT Cable Corporation enters this long-term agreement with FSMTC with plans for a long and



See “Cable Agreement” on page 4

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# PUC cuts off power to FSM Telecommunications Corporation over a long disputed bill

By Bill Jaynes  
The Kaselehlie Press

February 8, 2018

**Pohnpei**—Over three weeks ago Pohnpei Utilities Corporation turned off the power to FSM Telecommunications Corporation’s headquarters in Pohnpei after FSMTC refused to pay a bill they have been disputing for several years. Last Friday PUC turned the power back on after the two agreed to what PUC General Manager Nixon Anson called a “mediation process” in a letter to the Kaselehlie Press.

The power bill in question involves only the power bill for the Pohnpei headquarters of FSMTC. PUC did not shut down the power for other FSMTC operated locations such as cell phone towers and ADSL cabinets. The billing dispute did not extend that far.

FSMTC Chief Financial Officer Rodelio Pulmano said that PUC presented a bill for approximately \$170,000 which included approximately \$126,000 that FSMTC has long insisted that it does not owe. Approximately \$44,000 of the total of the \$170,000 was for the current bill which they immediately paid as they do each month. Pulmano said that FSMTC’s average monthly utility bill is \$45,000 to \$50,000.

PUC officials declined to comment. The Kaselehlie Press had scheduled an interview with Mr. Anson but when the appointed time arrived, Anson was not in the office. Instead his Executive Secretary delivered a letter to us saying that he was “concerned that KP might misstate things that will affect both PUC and FSMTC during the mediation process.” Anson

said in the letter that he was aware that we had interviewed FSMTC officials about the situation but that PUC would not be making any comment.

Pulmano said that during the Pohnpei power crisis beginning in about 2013, PUC was forced to ration power delivery island-wide. During that time FSMTC was forced to run its generators in order to continue to provide telecommunications services. He said that PUC charges Telecom based on a formula it uses for customers it has classed as industrial customers whether the customer actually uses the power or not. At the time of the power crisis PUC was not delivering the power for which they continued to bill PUC.

Pulmano said that when it became obvious that the power crisis was not going to be quickly resolved, FSMTC bought its own separate power meter. He claims that PUC employees verified the accuracy of the meter after it was installed and that from that point forward FSMTC began making payments based on the meter so that it was paying only for power that PUC was able to deliver and disputed any PUC bills for power that was not delivered. They were forced to pour the rest of their power budget into diesel fuel for their own generator.

Before PUC turned the power back on last Friday, FSMTC paid PUC an additional \$25,000 under protest. Pulmano said that since during their annual audits Deloitte and Touche never required FSMTC to book the disputed amount as a liability, they didn’t know where to book the \$25,000 payment they made since the payment would not be offsetting a liability.

Pulmano said that lawyers are currently

doing research on the legality of the disputed PUC billings. When asked if FSMTC has the financial wherewithal to pay the disputed amount if that is determined to be legally necessary, he said that it has the resources to do so but that FSMTC is not interested in paying for services it didn’t receive.

It would not mean bankruptcy for FSMTC as some on social media have claimed.

A person posting on social media also posited that FSMTC shut off all of the phones at PUC in “retaliation” for cutting off their power. FSMTC CEO Fredy Perman said in email that there was no “retaliation”. The shut off procedure is computer automated for customers who are in arrears of 60 days or more. For a limited time, landline customers who are in arrears can receive phone calls but cannot dial out until their bill is paid.

Perman wrote that the shut off of the phones at PUC had nothing to do with PUC sending line men with long “hot sticks” to shut down the power at FSMTC on January 15.

“We will continue to work with PUC to sort out the dispute issues,” Perman wrote.

It seems likely, though lawyers will have to clarify, that since PUC shut down power for 16 days, PUC will not be able to charge FSMTC for the time that PUC physically shut down

power delivery during the last three weeks. If Pulmano’s quotation of average monthly utilities cost is correct it seems to mean a loss of \$22 to \$25 thousand for PUC, the amount that FSMTC paid PUC under protest.

Since PUC’s General Manager decided to “bow out of the interview scheduled for 9 AM today”, we were unable to ask them any clarifying questions as we had intended to do.



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Bill Jaynes  
 Managing Editor

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# Pohnpei Women Council celebrated passage of Pohnpei's Family Protection Act

On January 8, 2018, the Pohnpei Women Council (Council) celebrated the passage of Pohnpei's Family Protection Act that was passed by the Pohnpei State Legislature on November 7, 2017 and signed into law, SL 9L-56-17, by Governor Marcelo Peterson on December 12, 2017, through a luncheon held at the Governor's Conference Room.

Attended the luncheon were Officers and members of the Pohnpei Women Council, Governor Marcelo Peterson, members of the Pohnpei State Legislature, Australian Ambassador George A. Fraser, non-government organization representatives, civil society members and state officials.

President of the Council, Ms. Susana Sohs, thanked the Governor, the Legislature and Australian Government for their support in passing the Pohnpei Family Protection Act. "This is a very important legislation as it recognizes the value of family structures and the obligation of family members to maintain the honor and respect of our custom and tradition. It is time that we accept and admit that domestic violence is a crime. This act of crime is not accepted in our culture, it should not be tolerated and violators should be punished", state Ms. Sohs. The Family Protection Act has been pending with the Legislature for over 10 years and finally passed in 2017, due to support of the government and NGOs through robust educational awareness raising held throughout the islands. Governor Marcelo Peterson thanked the Pohnpei Women Council for hosting the luncheon and assured the Council members that his office will remain open to provide assistance needed by the Council. He stated

that although the Act has been signed into law, there are still work to be done. His office is in the process of formulating a task force to work on the Act and invites the Council to select members to be on the task force. Vice Speaker Nixon B. Soram, on behalf of the Speaker and members of the Pohnpei State Legislature, joined the Governor in thanking the Council for their generous host and stated that the Legislature will continue to work with the Council to address issues relating to women. He reiterated the need to improve collaboration with NGOs and civil society. Australian Ambassador, George A. Fraser also thanked the Council for inviting the Australian Government and stated that the Australian Embassy offers trainings and workshops on domestic violence and invites members of the Council to attend. The Australian Embassy has been a great advocate in combatting domestic violence in the FSM. The day ended with traditional sakau (kava) at the Pohnpei State Legislature building.

Pohnpei Women Council is a chartered NGO in the State of Pohnpei, comprised of 31 member groups with over 2,000 members. Its area of priority include but not limited to health, education, and social wellbeing of all genders. The upcoming International Women's Day



celebration in Pohnpei in March 2018, will include workshops on the Family Protection Act legislation. For further inquiries regarding the Council, please contact Vice President: Mrs. Maria Donre at donremaria@outlook.com or Secretary Berno L. Hedson at bernolinalhedon@gmail.com



## Vital FSM Petroleum Corporation announces price increase

**Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, February 2, 2018** – Vital FSM Petroleum Corporation (FSMPC) announces to its valued customers a notice of potential increases in the wholesale price of gasoline, kerosene and diesel.

FSMPC's pricing benchmark seeks to keep fuel prices in the FSM no higher than \$0.35/gallon above those observed in Guam. The price stability mechanism within the pricing framework has seen fuel prices in Pohnpei and the FSM remain either on par, or lower than Guam for most of 2017.

over 24 months, and it is consistent with what the Board has observed in regional markets," states FSMPC Chairman Mr. Faustino Yangmog. "While there is little we can do about the increasing cost of petroleum products, we continue to be aggressive in our approach towards initiatives such as Coconut-4-Life that aim to increase household incomes, as well as tactics to diversify our business over time to include offerings of lower cost renewable energy products," Yangmog continues.

FSMPC Board and Management express thanks to policy makers, customers and the people of the FSM for their continued support.

"While we are able to cushion consumers from short term price spikes, there have been month-on-month increases in the cost of importing fuel products since April 2017 (See Figure 2). Pump prices in Pohnpei remain at \$3.75/gallon, making us lower than Guam's price by at least \$0.40/gallon. It is only a matter of time before we will have to pass on increases to the domestic market," says CEO Mr. Jared Morris.

"This is the first price increase to the authorized reseller channel by Management in

**THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE KASELEHLIE PRESS WILL BE RELEASED ON: February 26, 2018**

**Deadline for submission of articles or advertisements for this issue is the end of working hours on:**

**Wednesday February 21, 2018**

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## ...Cable Agreement

*Continued from front page*

fruitful relationship with FSMTC, the leading retail telecommunications service provider for FSM, and, in the future, with other retail telecommunications services providers who may enter the FSM telecommunications market.

Fredy Perman, FSMTC's CEO, and Adolfo Montenegro, FSMT Cable Corp.'s CEO, attended a brief ceremony where both signed this agreement, which is a major milestone as FSM's Telecom Sector enters a new and exciting era for the improved connectivity and economic development that comes with faster, more reliable and lower cost broadband service in all of the FSM states.

FSMT Cable Corporation's CEO Adolfo Montenegro took the opportunity to note the country's landmark achievement. "I would like to recognize the contributions of the many hard-working individuals, with a vision to improve broadband connectivity for the people of FSM, who tirelessly worked to bring this project to this point. FSMT Cable Corp. expects to have submarine cable connectivity services available to FSMTC within the next 6 months in Yap and Chuuk. We also depend on generous support from FSMTC to ensure the success of the East Micronesia Cable Project, which is planned for FSM to partner with the nations of Kiribati and Nauru to connect a new cable system from Kiribati, Nauru, and Kosrae to Guam via the HANTRU system from Pohnpei. FSMT Cable Corp. will be managing the completion of these projects as well as additional new projects that will see high speed connectivity available in Yap, Chuuk, Kosrae and Pohnpei for all licensed telecommunications services providers. Our vision is to become the catalyst for broadband adoption in FSM by actively promoting the use of the broadband infrastructure that is now available."

"On behalf of the FSMTC Chairman and his fellow Board of Directors,

management and its entire staff, would like to thank the President of FSM, Speaker and Members of Congress for their continued support of its very own telecommunications service provider. The signing of the IRU is a major achievement and significant milestone in the history of the telecommunications development, not only for FSM but the Pacific region. Under this agreement, we will set out to demonstrate that even in small island economy we are ready for the challenges of bringing low cost high speed Internet to its users. We look forward to continuing to support the newly established cable corporation and to ensure that the visions of both entities are achieved." said Fredy Perman, FSMTC CEO

### *About FSMTC*

FSM Telecommunications Corporation is a public corporation established under Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, governed under the laws of the FSM.

FSMTC operates in accordance with the highest standards in all relationships with customers, suppliers, environment and the community. Our vision is to provide the best possible modern, cost-effective telecommunications services by consistently satisfying the realistic expectations of our customers and stakeholders.

It is FSMTC's further goal to bring reliable and cost-effective communication services to every household in the FSM. For further information on FSMTC, please visit <http://www.fsmtc.fm>

FSMT Cable Corporation is a state-owned enterprise established in 2017 to implement, operate and maintain broadband connectivity infrastructure to be provisioned on a wholesale basis to licensed operators. The company is initially responsible for management of over 1,300 Km of submarine cable assets serving the states of Micronesia. The company's principal office is in Pohnpei, FSM. For further information see our website at: [www.fsmcable.com](http://www.fsmcable.com).



Chuuk Public Utility Corporation (CPUC) is seeking applications from interested parties for the position of Chief Executive Officer (CEO). The CEO will lead the expansion of service across the State of Chuuk and support the continuous improvement of CPUC

CPUC is the state owned corporation with the responsibility for power water and sewer service provision in Chuuk State, Federated States of Micronesia. Currently providing power, water and sewerage services to the island of Weno – population 13,500 - CPUC is seeking the services of a Chief Executive Officer to lead the expansion of service throughout the State of Chuuk.

## Qualifications & Experience

The successful applicant will ideally have a Bachelor's degree in Engineering, Business or Public Administration and must have a minimum of 15 years of relevant utility experience including 5 years in a managerial or executive capacity in a utility corporation.

The successful candidate will have experience of:

- strategic planning;
- managing and motivating work teams;
- working cooperatively to achieve corporate objectives;
- management skills required in public service provision;
- experience of renewable energy implementation and integration with diesel grid systems;
- working with development partners to achieve strategic objectives;
- community driven development project implementation mechanisms;

An attractive salary will be offered commensurate with skills and experience and will provide opportunity to reward performance.

## Application Process:

Qualified and interested applicants should submit the following documents:

- cover letter addressed to the Chairman of the Board of CPUC;
- detailed resume/Curriculum Vitae;
- names, contact details and relationship of three referees;
- one page summary explaining why you are interested in the position and why you are a suitable candidate for the position;

All shortlisted candidates will be interviewed by the Board of CPUC. Applications may be made by post, addressed as follows:

Chairman of the Board,  
CPUC CEO Application,  
PO Box 910,  
Weno,  
Chuuk State,  
FM 96942  
Federated States of Micronesia  
Tel: 691 330 2400

Applications may also be sent by email – all documents should be combined in one single pdf file and sent to [waite@cpuc.fm](mailto:waite@cpuc.fm) with read request and Subject Line: CPUC CEO Position - [applicant name]

Applications close at 12 noon on Friday 23th February 2018.

## Eligibility/Other Requirements

The successful applicant will be required to obtain satisfactory police and medical checks, costs of which will be reimbursed by CPUC.

## CPUC CEO Job Description:

Directly reporting to the to the CPUC Board, the specific tasks and responsibilities of the Chief Executive Officer will include:

- (i) Provide direct management of all CPUC functions to assure continuous and high quality delivery of electricity, water supply and sewerage services to the residents of Weno Island; [SEP]
- (ii) Represent CPUC on the State and FSM Energy Working Groups formulating and overseeing the implementation of energy policy policy;
- (iii) Plan, negotiate, organize, direct and control activities of the utility services provided by CPUC;
- (iv) Develop short and long range strategies, goals, and action plans to expand sustainable utility service across the State;
- (v) Develop and monitor operations and maintenance (O&M) and capital works budgets.
- (vi) Represent CPUC's interests at the State and National level on policy, financing, energy, and environmental issues;
- (vii) Participate as an ex-officio member of the CPUC Board;
- (viii) Schedule and inform Board members of meetings, provide agenda items and present and recommend strategies and policies for the Board's approval;

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# Australian Embassy to the FSM hosts Australia Day celebration

By Bill Jaynes  
The Kaselehlie Press

January 26, 2018

**Pohnpei**—The Australian Embassy hosted a reception at their housing complex in Nanpohnmal in celebration of “Australia Day”, the 230 anniversary of the arrival of the “First Fleet” in Sydney.

Ambassador George Fraser reminded those in attendance that less than six months after the FSM became a nation Australia established diplomatic relations with the new sovereign nation. “Since then, our two countries have achieved much together and I would like to acknowledge the work of previous Ambassadors and staff who have served here, as well as their counterparts in government. They have built the close relationship we enjoy today,” he said.

He said that while at last year’s celebration he spoke about Australia’s innovations, this year he wanted to talk about Australia’s values and views. He began with a discussion of the

Australian government’s 2017 Foreign Policy White Paper which set out the country’s vision for the region and the world.

“The White Paper reflects our support for political, economic and personal freedoms; our desire to ensure a non-coercive and rules-based international order; including human rights and equity, and the rule of law,” he said.

He spoke of Australia’s development program saying that Australia’s investment in Pacific partnerships is now at AUD 1.1 billion a year. “I want to state clearly that Australia welcomes other development partners in the Pacific. These partners are predominantly, the USA, China, Japan, New Zealand, the EU and international organisations. We each have our relative strengths and Australia will work cooperatively with all those delivering effective development outcomes,” he said.

“Our focus is on supporting sustainable economic growth, resilience, stability and security in Pacific countries.”

“In addressing development challenges in FSM, we are funding:

- improved education outcomes,
- greater gender equity and safety programs under Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development” and through direct advocacy (congratulations, Pohnpei legislature for passing a domestic violence prevention Act); we look forward to working with Chuuk and Yap too

- climate change adaptation
- strengthened people-to-people links, and connecting public and private sector leaders

- linkages for educational institutions and for students in Australia with their Pacific peers.

We are also:

- using the benefits of our capable and experienced bureaucracy and economies of scale to assist those countries without connection to metropolitan states; eg. by providing pharmaceutical testing services

- providing core financial support to the Pacific Islands Forum

Secretariat, and regional specialised agencies.

“In this Embassy’s area of responsibility, we will do less infrastructure work but more in human development, we will maintain our scholarships to Pacific institutions and aim to re-introduce high-level scholarships to Australian universities,” he announced.

He spoke briefly about the benefits of PACER Plus to Pacific economies.

He then offered a toast to the government and people of the FSM.

FSM Acting Secretary for Foreign Affairs also spoke of the importance of the diplomatic relations between the two countries and also offered a toast.

A magnificent dinner was then served.

The Embassy of the United States of America in Kolonia, Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia invites American citizens from businesses, non-governmental organizations, faith-based organizations, and academic institutions to participate in a meeting to establish a local Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC). The intention of OSAC is to serve Americans in all states of the FSM: Chuuk, Yap, Kosrae and Pohnpei.



**Monday, February 26, 6:00 p.m. at the U.S. Embassy in Kolonia. Please RSVP to [KoloniaACS@state.gov](mailto:KoloniaACS@state.gov). Bring your USA passport or copy in order to gain entrance to the meeting.**

The goal of the Overseas Security Advisory Council is to enhance the exchange of timely and relevant security-related information between local representatives of U.S. private sector organizations operating abroad and U.S. embassies. Councils offer representatives the opportunity to network, share security concerns and best practices, and learn about resources available to them through the U.S. embassy. Security concerns range from the global threat of terrorism to local street crime; from natural disasters to disease outbreak; and from crisis management and contingency planning to immediate security needs. OSAC meetings are a venue to discuss concerns relevant to the safety and security of an organization’s personnel, assets, and operations.

## Organization and Benefits

OSACs are public-private organizations that are co-chaired by a member of the private sector and the Regional Security

Officer at the embassy. OSACs are effective tools for networking and sharing security information that strengthen professional relationships. Many Councils prove most useful during a crisis, allowing members to rapidly share information as it develops with each other and with the Embassy. The security issues addressed during OSAC meetings vary based on the location and interests of the Council. As threats to U.S. soft targets overseas continue to evolve, American commercial, education, and humanitarian efforts are put at risk. OSACs provide a mechanism to safeguard American lives and interests overseas.

In addition, the U.S. Embassy in Kolonia invites all American citizens to register in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) <https://step.state.gov/step/>, which helps the Embassy notify U.S. nationals in the event of a disaster or other emergency.





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[www.micronesia.emb-japan.go.jp](http://www.micronesia.emb-japan.go.jp)





**SSgt. Jerome Jacob**  
**Class of 2008**

## Alumni Success

Staff Sergeant Jerome Jacob was born and raised on the Island of Pohnpei. He is a proud member of the College of Micronesia's (COM-FSM) class of 2008.

Jacob enrolled in the college's Liberal Arts program in Fall of 2006 after graduating from PICS High School. While at the college he was an active member of the Student Support Services Program, and was a founding member of Phi Theta Kappa, Beta Omicron Upsilon Chapter honor society. After graduating in 2008 with Honors earning an Associates of Arts Degree in Liberal Arts, Jacob entered the United States Marine Corps in 2009.

While in the Marine Corps serving in Okinawa, Japan, Jacob was named Marine of the Quarter and Non-commission Officer of the Quarter. In 2015 he was again named the Marine of the Quarter for the Middle East and South Asia Region in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. As part of his service in the armed forces, Jacob has been to

Italy, Rome, Russia, and Saudi Arabia. In 2015, he was a Summa Cum Laude graduate of Ashford University with a Bachelors Degree in Social and Criminal Justice.

Jacob shares that the college played an "important role in completing my undergraduate degree because that is where I gained my experience as a college student and the importance of having a college degree." Having attended the college and earning a degree before entering the Marine Corps, Jacob says, helped "throughout my Marine Corps career in which it made me more competitive within my ranks by having a college degree." Jacob plans to pursue a master's degree, and is a believer in that "education never ends and everyday we learn something new."

The college congratulates SSgt Jerome Jacob for his many successes and to his testament that a good education can take you places. As COM-FSM celebrates its 25th anniversary of higher education in the FSM, we recognize the success that Jacob has achieved. We salute Staff Sergeant Jerome Jacob, and to you we say "Oorah"!

Share your story by emailing us at  
[alumnisuccess@comfsm.fm](mailto:alumnisuccess@comfsm.fm)  
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### 25th Anniversary Schedule of Activities:

#### (Monday) April 2, 2018

Parade  
(Spanish Wall to P.I.C.S Track &  
Field) 9:00AM

Opening Ceremony / Cultural Show  
Sports Competition  
(P.I.C.S Track & Field) 10:00AM -  
4:00PM

#### (Tuesday) April 3, 2018

Dedication of a Traditional Canoe and  
Canoe House  
(National Campus) 9:00AM -  
11:00AM

Forum by Fran Hezel, SJ  
"College Education for FSM: Why?"  
Lecture and Book Signing  
(MITC) 3:30PM - 4:30PM

#### (Wednesday) April 4, 2018

Convocation  
(FSM-China Friendship Sports Center)  
9:00AM

"Tropical Light" Photo  
Exhibit/Lecture  
by Floyd Takeuchi  
(MITC)  
1:00PM - 2:00PM

Screening of "Island Soldier"  
Q&A with Nathan Fitch  
(Pohnpei Cinema)  
3:30PM - 5:30PM

Veterans, COM-FSM Student  
Veterans/Alumni Veteran  
(U.S. Ambassador's Residence,  
Nanpohnmal)  
6:00PM

(Thursday) April 5, 2018  
25th Anniversary Gala  
Fundraising Dinner  
6:00PM

National Campus  
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Fax: (691)320-2479  
E-Mail: [national@comfsm.fm](mailto:national@comfsm.fm)

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# US Navy Medical Corps members provide services in Pohnpei

By **Bill Jaynes**  
The Kaselehlie Press

February 7, 2018

**Pohnpei**—Four members of the US Navy’s Medical Corps visited Pohnpei this week. While here the members offered different types of services including audiology services on a referral basis.

Lt. Matt Thomas, the audiologist on the team said that the hospital had referred several infants for further hearing tests after they had failed their initial testing. He said that it is not at all uncommon for infants to fail their initial hearing test and that parents shouldn’t panic if it happens with their child. He said that if it does happen the parent should wait for a month and have their child re-tested. There are a number of factors that can influence the results of a hearing test. He said that it is not at all uncommon for infants to have fluid in their ears that can produce false results. He also said that some of the testing gear can be influenced by body movement and many babies are in constant motion.

Pohnpei does have audiology testing equipment. One of those pieces of testing

equipment performs the Auditory Brain Stem Response. Electrodes are placed in the proper locations on a baby’s head. It generates a series of clicks through headphones and measures the electrical response of the brain stem. That machine can be used for extremely advanced testing. However, the electrodes are disposable and Pohnpei has run out. Lt. Thomas said that a team is coming in a month to calibrate the machine and will also replace the electrodes.

Lt. Thomas brought his own testing equipment, one of which conducts an Oto Acoustic Emissions (OAE) test. He said it is the quickest and most reliable test for infants but that each of the testing methods can be influenced by outside factors. Essentially, the small hand held machine sends out a tone and measures the echo it receives back from the ear. Thomas said a healthy ears sends an echo back. They can tell a great deal based on the frequency the ear sends back.



Thomas said that he’d been in Chuuk several times to perform tests. We asked him if during his visits he had noticed any tendency for higher numbers of congenital deafness. He said that he had not seen any evidence of that; however, he said that a large number of cases of hearing loss might have been able to have been avoided.

“Children get a lot of ear infections,” he said. “It’s important that those infections be treated and that the treatment is followed until cleared by a doctor.” He said that he’s seen

several cases where an ear infection destroyed the ear drum of the patient resulting in permanent hearing loss. “It’s vital that patients follow doctor’s instructions for treatment and should not stop until they are cleared by the doctor.” He said that during treatment a patient should not swim and should keep their ears dry in order for the treatments to work.

The members of the Navy Medical team included Lt. Commander Eva Reed who is a Senior Global Health Monitoring and Evaluation Adviser. She did consultation with departments of health while she was here. Lt. Junior Grade Christopher Low is an Industrial Hygiene and Occupational Safety Scientist. He had been scheduled to visit several schools in Pohnpei during his visit to test for asbestos and lead paint. Due to the cancellation of classes during the first two days of his visit his visits had to be significantly shortened and scheduled all on one day.

Hospital Corpsman First Class Joshua Scanlan was in Pohnpei to handle data transmission.

## Employment



## Opportunities

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### VALUES



POSITIONS	LOCATION	ANNUAL SALARY	CLOSING DATE
Research Assistant	National Campus	\$5, 955.00	February 14, 2018
Instructor-Public Health	Kosrae Campus	\$16, 131.00 - \$17, 819.00	February 15, 2018
Instructor-English	Kosrae Campus	\$16, 131.00 - \$17, 819.00	February 15, 2018
Instructor-Mathematics	Kosrae Campus	\$16, 131.00 - \$17, 819.00	February 15, 2018
Security Officer	Chuuk Campus	\$5, 196.00	February 21, 2018
Security Officer ( 2 positions)	FMI Campus	\$5, 196.00	February 21, 2018
Administrative Assistant I	Yap Campus	\$6, 631.00	March 06, 2018
Student Services Specialist III	Career & Technical Education Center, Pohnpei	\$9, 436.00 - \$10, 633.00	March 06, 2018
Student Services Specialist III	Career & Technical Education Center, Pohnpei	\$9, 436.00 - \$10, 633.00	March 06, 2018
IT Technician II	Career & Technical Education Center, Pohnpei	\$6, 565.00	March 07, 2018

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](mailto:hro@comfsm.fm) and telephone number (691) 320-2482 extension numbers 130, 131, 192 or visit us at [www.comfsm.fm](http://www.comfsm.fm).

## ...Ribbon Cutting

*Continued from front page*

Oliver as Acting Governor, Pohnpei Legislature Speaker Fernando Scaliem, and Iso Nahnken of Nett Salvador Iriarte.

Mr. Shigeru Ito, President of the Maruha Nichirio Group, the parent company of TMC gave remarks. The Maruha Nichirio Group that Mr. Ito runs has 160 companies under its umbrella including TMC. He said during his remarks that when TMC first started its business in the FSM in conjunction with NFC six years ago, it had only two purse seiners but that they now had six FSM flagged vessels.

Mr. Nobuyuki Wakasa, TMC President said that several years ago, Secretary Henry told him that while it was good to have fishing operations, the company should seriously look at on shore operations. Wakasa said that the company started to consider the possibility and conducted feasibility studies. The katsubushi and feed meal plant was the result of their studies. Other potential ventures that they looked at were not financially feasible.



*TMC local employees part out skip jack*

Sitan later said that one of the difficulties with conducting industrial businesses in the FSM was the high cost of power as compared to other international locations.

Before the ribbon cutting for the new plant, Iso Nahnken Salvador Iriarte gave traditional closing remarks. While mentioning that the venture did not yet have a Nett District business license, he welcomed the new venture to Nett. He repeated a message he has given before encouraging the business owners to operate with respect (wahu), responsibility (pwukoah), and honesty (mehlel).

Wakasa and NFC Board Chairman Stoney Taulung each offered toasts for the success of the new plant.

Iso Nahnken of Nett Salvador Iriarte, Maruha Nichirio Group President Shigeru Ito, Acting Governor Reed Oliver, Secretary Marion Henry and TMC President Nobuyuki Wakasa participated in cutting the ribbon for the new processing plant after which tours were conducted of the plant. Afterward, interested people could take a tour of the not quite completed plant.

Later Sitan said that when the feed meal plant is operational it will be able to handle fisheries by-catch, the non-targeted fish that are caught by purse seiners and long liners, and that would eliminate some of the waste.

Sitan was not fully versed on the details on how waste water from the plant would be handled in order to avoid introducing reef killing nutrients into the ecosystem but said that the factor had been considered and that there would be little to no impact.

At press time, KPress had not yet been able to follow up on that matter with EPA or other entities that might know how that the waste water would be handled but will attempt to do so for the February 26 issue.

Sitan also said that TMC had previously thought that their Foreign Investment Permit with the National Government that covered their fisheries operations would also cover the new shore based plant. He said that Secretary Henry told them that even though he had asked the company to conduct onshore business the new business venture would require a foreign investment permit from the Pohnpei State Government. Sitan said that paperwork is in process.

Opening the introductory workshop, the secretary for the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management, Andrew Yatilman, stressed the importance of ensuring that the climate change and disaster risk finance assessment report has utility for the FSM national government and the states — Pohnpei, Chuuk, Yap and Kosrae.

He encouraged participants to be open and to share information, with the team, so that the results of the assessment take account of the unique context of FSM.

“There are many sources of funding out there, but we do not need to access everything. We must be strategic and only pursue sources that are in line with our country priorities and commensurate with our absorptive capacity,” said Secretary Yatilman, who is the focal point for this assessment.

Marion Henry, secretary of the Department of Resources and Development, is of the view that “the assessment is critical to provide

FSM options on how it could scale-up financing for big projects in sectors such as energy, water and food security.”

Sihna Lawrence, secretary of Finance and Administration and the GCF NDA added that this assessment will provide a mapping of the extent of readiness for potential GCF national implementing entities, in particular the FSM Development Bank and FSM Petrocorp.

FSM has already made significant progress in their commitment to prioritizing increased access to climate change and disaster risk financing, with the Micronesia Conservation Trust becoming an accredited regional implementing entity to the Green Climate Fund or GCF in 2017, and FSM being the first country in the Pacific to develop their GCF Country Program, with the support of GCF readiness funding.

The joint mission will build on work already in progress, by undertaking an assessment of the practical application of options for improved access to and management of, climate change and disaster risk finance, for the FSM. FSM is the ninth Pacific Island



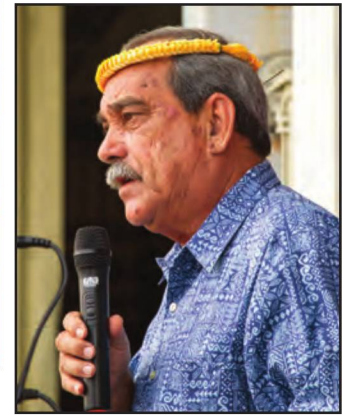
*Shigeru Ito*



*Iso Nahnken Salvador Iriarte*



*Secretary Marion Henry*



*President Peter Christian*



*Nobuyuki Wakasa*



*Acting Governor Reed Oliver*

## FSM commences climate change and disaster risk finance assessment

*Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat*

**POHNPEI, FSM** — With a view to advancing their national climate change and disaster risk management priorities, 40 representatives from government departments, state governments, donor partners, private sector, and non-governmental organizations gathered in Pohnpei on Wednesday, Jan. 31, to participate in the introductory workshop for the Federated States of Micronesia's climate change and disaster risk finance assessment.

In partnership with the government of the Federated States of Micronesia, a joint assessment team led by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, alongside the Pacific Community, with funding from the USAID/SPC Institutional Strengthening in Pacific Islands Countries to Adapt to Climate Change Project, and the USAID Climate Ready Project, will be consulting with a broad range of stakeholders throughout the assessment period from Jan. 29 to Feb. 9, 2018.

Country to undertake a national climate change and disaster risk finance assessment.

The assessment report and recommendations will identify opportunities to develop or update relevant policies and plans, strengthen human capacity, enhance institutional coordination and ensure that cross-cutting issues like gender and social inclusion are mainstreamed and supported.

The results will be of benefit not only to support improved and direct access to international climate finances, but they will also enhance donor confidence and utilization of country systems.

## Auditions February 16-18 for next Pohnpei Players production

After a highly successful first production at Christmas time, the Pohnpei Players are planning another production “Clever Jack & the Magic Beanstalk” is a charming musical that will surely please audiences this coming May.

They will be holding auditions for the new production. Auditions for the show are taking place Friday and Saturday, February 16 and 17 at Pohnpei Catholic School. They are open to anyone 10 and older. The show includes 12 speaking roles, a very active chorus of approximately 10 people, and a dozen songs with a variety of musical styles. People selected from the first-level auditions Friday and Saturday will be asked to attend a call-back audition Sunday, February 18.

Those interested in auditioning need to be prepared with the following:

- Come prepared to sing a song! – You can either practice a song for which you have sheet music ready to hand to the audition accompanist, or select one of the

common, simple songs (such as Happy Birthday) that will be listed by the accompanist at the audition.

- Audition: Friday, February 16, 4–7 PM
  - OR – Saturday, February 17, 2–5 PM
  - Location: Pohnpei Catholic School
  - Age: 10 and older
- If selected after your first audition, be prepared for:
- Call-backs (by invitation only) Sunday, February 18, 1–5 PM
  - Rehearsals (location to be determined): Mondays and Tuesdays, 6-8:30 PM
  - Saturdays 4-7:00 PM
  - Tentative Show Dates: May 3 (dress rehearsal), May 4-6 and May 11–13
- Pohnpei Players directors Wayne and Kristi Parker are really excited about this show and hope you will all come out to audition!

## Ancient stone money bank receives modern addition

**Colonia, Yap-** The Mangyol Stone Money Cultural Site on the island of Yap is a popular sight for tourists to this remote island due to its unique cross-shaped design. Set in lush surroundings with a collection of 71 large discs of the currency that is found nowhere else in the world, visitors come from all over the globe to see the Stone Money that Yap is famous for. Now, the Yap Visitors Bureau (YVB) has added a new accommodation to this ancient site for visitors, a modern restroom facility.

Don Evans, YVB General Manager, recently announced the construction of the small building and noted that “it’s conveniently located in the parking area nearby, but outside the core zone where it’s not a disturbance to the universal value of the site.” Located in Makiy village, Gagil municipality, the site is the most significant undisturbed money bank in Yap and is currently on UNESCO’s “tentative list” for consideration to become a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

“We are striving to provide tourists to Yap with accommodations that will make their visit even more enjoyable,” added Tom Tamangmow, YVB Project Development Manager, who oversaw the design and construction of the new building. “Providing clean restrooms, running water and a dropdown change

table for mothers with infants is one way of doing this.”

The area consists of two stone money banks that cross in the middle. One extends south to north and is traditionally referred to as Bleyrach, while the other crosses over from east to west and is referred to as Mangyol. Bleyrach is one of the seven original banks said to have been designated by spirits in the pre-historic era. Mangyol is the last one constructed prior to the Spanish occupation in the 16th century. Historically, both are commonly referred to as Mangyol. It is recommended that visitors go with a local guide. For more information, go to [www.visit Yap.com](http://www.visit Yap.com).





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## Chinese Government Scholarship

**The Embassy of the People’s Republic of China in the FSM welcomes eligible FSM high school graduates and college students to apply for the Chinese Government Scholarship.**

To succeed in getting an offer, please refer to the following easy application steps:

**Step1, log on to [www.csc.edu.cn/laihua](http://www.csc.edu.cn/laihua) or [www.campuschina.org](http://www.campuschina.org) and fill in the application form. Your “Agency Number” is 5831.**

**Step 2, download the completed form and print two hard copies. Then submit the hard copies and other corresponding application documents to the Chinese Embassy no later than April 16th, 2018.**

**For more details and requirements, please consult the Chinese Embassy or refer to [www.csc.edu.cn/laihua](http://www.csc.edu.cn/laihua).**

**Officers in charge: Mr. YU Yunshan  
Mr. REN Chao  
Tel: 320-5575 Fax:320-5578  
E-mail: [chinaemb\\_fm@mfa.gov.cn](mailto:chinaemb_fm@mfa.gov.cn)**

## ADAPTATION FUND:- ENHANCING THE CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE OF VULNERABLE ISLAND COMMUNITIES IN FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA (FSM)

### TERMS OF REFERENCE PROJECT MANAGER

#### 1. Project Management Unit

The project will be implemented and coordinated through a project management unit which will be established in the DECEM in Palikir, Pohnpei, FSM. The PMU is a three-person office comprising of a Project Manager, an Accountant and a Knowledge & Communications Officer who will be working in close collaboration with the Secretary of DECEM and the Assistant Secretary of the Climate Change Division. The PMU will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the project and support the DECEM and other Government departments at the national level as well as project staff at the State and outer island levels.

#### 2. Scope of Services

The scope of services set out the roles and responsibilities of the Project Manager. The Project Manager will be responsible for:

- (1) the overall management and implementation of the project;
- (2) Act as the secretary to the Project Board and implement Project Board decisions;
- (3) Responsible to the NDA for fulfilling the monitoring and evaluation of activities under the project;
- (4) Liaise with SPREP as the RIE for the project through the SPREP Climate Change Adaptation Advisor, Finance Advisor and Procurement Officer with regards to management of the project, implementation of activities, disbursement of funds and procurement of goods and services required for the project;
- (5) Liaise with all relevant Government departments at national and state levels as well as municipalities and communities as well as NGOs, private sector and development partners to share information about the project, gauge their support and contribution to complete the activities of the project and solicit information to inform the activities of the project;
- (6) Lead and motivate the project management unit staff, state level and outer island staff;
- (7) Manage information flows between the directing and delivery levels of the project;
- (8) Provide oversight to the project activities of each component, taking responsibility for the overall progress and use of resources and initiating remedial actions where necessary;
- (9) Advise the Project Board through the National Project Director who is the Secretary of the DECEM of

any deviations of the project and other relevant issues;

- (10) Facilitate and finalise the review of all reports, policies, strategies, plans, specifications and terms of references for all activities of the project;
- (11) Develop the required terms of reference and specifications for required consultancies, works and goods for all activities of the project;
- (12) Develop the required tender/bidding documents for the consultancies, works and goods for all activities of the project, initiate and facilitate tender process, convene evaluation committees, finalise and submit evaluation reports for approval and facilitate the finalization of contracts for services, works and goods;
- (13) Facilitate logistical support to enable delivery of goods, materials and equipment to project sites where the activities will be implemented;
- (14) Prepare and maintain quarterly financial and progress reports, annual progress and audited financial reports as well as the final project and audited financial reports;
- (15) Prepare and submit the annual and quarterly work plans and budget to DECEM Secretary and Assistant Secretary and to SPREP for review and to the Project Board for approval;
- (16) Schedule and respond to annual financial audits
- (17) Schedule and respond to annual, mid-term and final review of the project;
- (18) Ensure compliance with FSM Government laws and policies, procedures and systems in relation to the implementation of the project activities;
- (19) Ensure all project documents and files are kept and maintained for project audit and reviews.

#### 3. Duration and remuneration

The project is for four years and therefore the selected candidate will be employed under an annual contract renewable on an annual basis for the duration of the project and in accordance with the Government of FSM's Public Service System Regulation for recruitment of project funded personnel. The remuneration package for the position comprised of annual salary of \$30,000.00 US Dollars. A housing allowance will be provided for non residence of Pohnpei.

#### 4. Qualifications and experiences required

- (1) A minimum of a Bachelor's degree in project management or finance, or business administration or similar discipline (Essential)
- (2) A minimum of 7 years of experience in project management and coordination (Essential)
- (3) Experience in working in close

coordination with a team not limited to Government officials, development partners, and other stakeholders (Essential)

- (4) Excellent oral and written communication skills in English and FSM Language (Essential);
- (5) Excellent report writing skills, good time management and realistic approach to deadlines (Essential)
- (6) Excellent computer skills (Essential)
- (7) Must have project team experience, leadership skills and willing to share knowledge where necessary (Essential)
- (8) Client focus and commitment to results, with an ability to work independently (Desirable)
- (9) Demonstrated experience and understanding of the Government's systems, processes, procedures and laws relevant to the project and its activities (Desirable)

### TERMS OF REFERENCE ACCOUNTANT

#### 1. Scope of Services

The scope of services set out the roles and responsibilities of the project Accountant. The project Accountant will be responsible for:

1. Preparation of annual and quarterly budgets;
2. Preparation of annual requests for fund tranches;
3. Preparation of annual procurement plan
4. Preparation of annual financial reports with all supporting documents ready for review and audit
5. Procure goods and services required by the project to support the implementation of the project at national, state and outer island levels;
6. Preparation of all supporting documents and required forms to facilitate procurement and payment for services, works and goods required by the project activities including following up on payments and delivery of goods services and works-related deliverables;
7. Monitoring of project fund spending and ensuring that all State and outer island spending are in line with the approved work plan and budget
8. Liaise with suppliers of goods and services to source quotes;
9. Support monitoring of contracts and ensure that deliverables comply with set time schedules under approved contracts;
10. Support and respond to financial audits and reviews for the project and ensure all relevant reports and documents are available for audits;
11. Support administration and



logistical requirements to enable delivery and implementation of activities in close collaboration with the Project Management and project staff at State and Outer Island levels;

12. Ensure compliance with the laws, policies, systems and procedures of the Government of FSM as well as of the Adaptation Fund and SPREP in relation to the procurement of goods and services and sourcing of consultancies and contractors to deliver the activities of the project

13. Ensure all project documents and files are kept and maintained for project audit and reviews.

#### 2. Duration and remuneration

The project is for four years and therefore the selected candidate will be employed under an annual contract renewable on an annual basis for the duration of the project and in accordance with the Government of FSM's Public Service System Regulation for recruitment of project funded personnel.

The remuneration package for the position comprised of annual salary of \$18,000.00 US Dollars per annum and include all the applicable taxes.

#### 3. Qualifications and experiences required

- (1) A minimum of a Bachelor's degree in Accounting and Financial management with CPA certification (Essential)
- (2) A minimum of 5 years of experience in accounting and finance and procurement (Essential)
- (3) Experience in working in close coordination with a team not limited to Government officials, development partners, and other stakeholders (Essential)
- (4) Excellent oral and written communication skills in English and FSM Language (Essential);
- (5) Excellent report writing skills, good time management and realistic approach to deadlines (Essential)
- (6) Excellent computer skills (Essential)
- (7) Must have project team experience and willing to share knowledge where necessary (Essential)
- (8) Client focus and commitment to results, with an ability to work independently (Desirable)
- (9) Demonstrated experience and understanding of the Government's financial and procurement systems, processes, procedures and laws relevant to the project and its activities (Desirable)

**TERMS OF REFERENCE-  
KNOWLEDGE AND  
COMMUNICATION  
OFFICER**

**1. Scope of Services**

The scope of services set out the roles and responsibilities of the project's Knowledge and Communication Officer. The KC Officer will be responsible for:

1. Lead the preparation and implementation of the project's communication and visibility plan (CVP);
2. Development of all awareness (pamphlets, brochures, banners, documentaries and short videos, television and radio advertisements, newspaper articles) and promotional materials (pens, pen drives, bags, hats, etc) ready for review, approval, printing and or production;
3. Dissemination of promotional and awareness materials using available tools such as advertising, events, meetings/workshops, virtual and social media;
4. Preparation of media releases and coordination of all media related events and activities;
5. Planning and implementation of effectiveness surveys to determine awareness levels as result of the communication and visibility products and materials;
6. Lead the development, compilation and publication of case studies and lessons learnt from the project;
7. Facilitate lessons learnt workshops and develop lessons learnt reports including sharing with stakeholders at national, state and municipality levels as well as regional and global levels;
8. Support administration and logistical requirements to enable delivery and implementation of activities in close collaboration with the Project Management and project staff at State and Outer Island levels;
9. Ensure compliance with the laws, policies, systems and procedures of the Government of FSM as well as of the Adaptation Fund and SPREP in relation to the knowledge, communication and visibility activities;
10. Ensure all project documents and files are kept and maintained for project audit and reviews.

**2. Duration and remuneration**

The project is for four years and

therefore the selected candidate will be employed under an annual contract renewable on an annual basis for the duration of the project and in accordance with the Government of FSM's Public Service System Regulation for recruitment of project funded personnel.

The remuneration package for the position comprised of annual salary of \$12,000.00 US Dollars per annum and include all the applicable taxes.

**3. Qualifications and experiences required**

- (1) A minimum of a Bachelor's degree in Communication and knowledge management or similar discipline (Essential)
- (2) A minimum of 5 years of experience in knowledge management and communication roles (Essential)
- (3) Experience in working in close coordination with a team not limited to Government officials, development partners, and other stakeholders (Essential)
- (4) Excellent oral and written communication skills in English and FSM Language (Essential);
- (5) Excellent report writing skills, good time management and realistic approach to deadlines (Essential)
- (6) Excellent computer skills (Essential)
- (7) Must have project team experience and willing to share knowledge where necessary (Essential)
- (8) Client focus and commitment to results, with an ability to work independently (Desirable)
- (9) Demonstrated experience and understanding of the Government's systems, processes, procedures and laws relevant to the project and its activities as well as in relation to media and communication (Desirable)

**To apply:** Submit resume with FSM Application form by mail, fax or email to:

Personnel Office  
P.O. Box 35  
Palikir, Pohnpei FM 96941  
Phone: (691) 320-2681

Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management  
PS-69  
Palikir, Pohnpei FM96941  
Phone: (691) 320-8814  
Fax: (691) 320-8936  
Email. climate@mail.fm

**U.S. Government completes Typhoon Maysak reconstruction efforts, broadens environmental resilience support**

*Embassy of the United States of America Kolonia*

**January 20, 2018 Weno, Chuuk** — U.S. Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) Robert Riley, United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Deputy Mission Director to the Pacific Islands Clay Epperson, and FSM government officials marked the completion of homes and public infrastructure destroyed by Typhoon Maysak.

USAID and the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia coordinated with the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Services, and the Small Business Administration for this reconstruction program, which was implemented by the International Organization of Migration.

In Chuuk and Yap, USAID constructed over 400 new homes and over 150 public facilities, such as schools, clinics, and rain catchment systems. USAID also provided materials and vouchers worth nearly \$2.8 million to over 1,350 beneficiaries who lost their homes, possessions, and livelihoods. Additionally, USAID trained close to 1,500 local residents to rebuild their homes and communities using resilient designs and quality materials so that the buildings can withstand future disasters.

"Our event today is not just about completing construction projects. We are also celebrating how our governments, non-governmental partners, and beneficiaries now have greater capacity to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters," said Ambassador Riley.

Epperson participated in the event as part of his four-day visit to FSM, during which he met with key partners and toured project sites where USAID is helping the country overcome environmental challenges. He met with the Chuuk Women's Council — a group that is helping families and schools grow vegetable gardens so that more food is available in their communities, especially during droughts and typhoons.

Through these and other projects, USAID is partnering with communities to help them conserve biodiversity, prepare for disasters, and better manage natural resources. In a move to advance

Micronesia's ability to develop and sustain its own environmental resilience, USAID is also helping the government, private sector, and civil society organizations access international funding for projects that mitigate the impacts of natural disasters.

Epperson's visit to FSM will mark the beginning of his longer stay in the region, where he will also go to the Republic of the Marshall Islands and Papua New Guinea. In the Pacific Islands, USAID partners with national governments to advance sustainable, resilient development. USAID assistance in the Pacific Island region covers 12 nations: Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.



*Stuart Simpson, Chief of Mission IOM Micronesia, Robert Riley, U.S. Ambassador to the FSM, Seffet William, Northern Namoneas Representative and Clay Epperson, Deputy Mission Director, USAID/Pacific Islands. PC: Olivia Blinn*

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## Chuuk Youth organize public dialogue on human trafficking following local case's court ruling

By the Chuuk Youth Council

**Weno, Chuuk--** On January 26th 2018 the Chuuk Youth Council organized and hosted a public dialogue focusing on the issue of human trafficking. This forum brought together key stakeholders, service providers and concerned citizens alike with the aim to raise awareness on the reality of human trafficking in Chuuk and produce a draft resolution that represents the collective voice of the community to be shared with the state leadership on recommendations for ways forward.



This initiative by Chuuk's young people was a response to the October 2017 human trafficking case in Chuuk that raised concern among the youth and wider community. In what was the FSM's first successful human trafficking conviction, there was much anticipation of the sentencing to follow as it would set a precedent for how such cases are looked at in the future by not just all stakeholders involved, but for those who the laws are meant to protect. As this is an issue that predominantly affects young people as victims, the Chuuk Youth Council shares a growing concern that the full weight of the law was not enforced in this case that involved a minor, and that this could potentially send the wrong message to perpetrators and victims.





Given the many questions and concerns that were raised after the case, the Chuuk Youth Council thought it would be valuable to host a forum in which the community could come together to ask these questions and voice their concerns, but ultimately contribute to solutions for ways forward.



This event was made possible by the generous support of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Chuuk Chamber of Commerce.






**Rotary** 

**The Rotary Club of Pohnpei**  
sends this open invitation for everyone  
**To Witness an Amazing Taiko Drum Performance**  
By the Members of the Taiko Club at

**SENDAI IKUEI GAKUEN** HIGH SCHOOL



**Friday, February 16, 2018 5:30PM**  
**PMA Auditorium**

## Rotary receives rheumatic heart disease scanners



The Rotary Club of Pohnpei successfully received and donated two hand held scanners used for the detection of rheumatic heart disease in children.

These scanners were donated to Pohnpei Health, represented by its director Kapilly Capelle, Dr. Payne Perman and Wefonne Billen. RHD is a serious disease. It is generally caused by strep throat in young children which is not treated. The disease can then take hold in the heart ultimately causing severe problems which if left untreated can cause death at a young age.

Once the disease reaches a serious stage, heart valve replacement is necessary. The purpose of the scanners is to assist in early detection.

The disease, once it is in place cannot be cured but it can be halted before catastrophic damage occurs. The earlier the detection the easier the treatment. Pohnpei Public Health has been conducting screenings of school age children to try and detect the disease. The next big screening is set for March, 2018. To provide an idea of the size of the problem in Pohnpei, the typical incidence of RHD in school age populations is under .01%. That is a very small number. Screenings in Pohnpei have shown an incidence of approximately 9-10% of all those tested. Treatment if detected early enough consists of a regimen of antibiotics, which can prevent huge problems later on.

The hand held scanners are to be used at the big screening in March, and for screenings at the schools in the future. The more kids tested, the more kids that can be treated. Training will take place at the March screening to use the hand held scanners, and nurses are to be trained to provide the screenings. More complex diagnostic tools require a specialized doctor to operate them.

The Rotary Club of Pohnpei is happy to contribute and pursue this worthwhile

project. Each of the scanners costs about \$4,300.00. Support for this project was widespread. One of the scanners was purchased by nine clubs in Japan, Tokyo Akasaka RC, Tokyo Ginza RC, Tokyo Tsukiji RC, Tokyo Shinagawa RC, Tokyo Ebisu RC, Tokyo Hiroo RC, Tokyo Seijyo-shin RC, Tokyo Musashi-Fuchu RC, Tokyo Chuo RC, who are all part of an organization formed and called The Committee for Palau & Micronesia Education and Health Care Support in Tokyo.

Many thanks to them for their wonderful support.

The other scanner was purchased by the Rotary Club of Pohnpei with assistance from clubs in our region, known as the Pacific Basin Group.

This is a big project and we are very thankful that the Rotary Clubs can be of assistance. We hope to make even more contributions in the future.

### Embassy of the United States of America, and the Peace Corps FSM and Palau offer used furniture, supplies, and equipment

Sealed Bid Sale open to the public for viewing and bidding on Thursday and Friday, March 1 and 2, 2018, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Peace Corps building (near the Tuna Commission, Kolonia).

Furniture, Supplies, and equipment sold in lots:

The Sealed Bid Sale will be conducted under the following conditions:

- Property sold on an as-is, where-is basis for cash payment without refund or warranty;
- Purchaser shall pay any customs duties, local taxes, or other charges imposed by the government of Pohnpei or the FSM;
- Successful bidder must pay the full bid amount in cash, exact amount, on Monday, March 6, 2018, within Cashier working hours;
- All fully paid items must be removed from the Peace Corps premises immediately following payment;
- U.S. Embassy and/or Peace Corps reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

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