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FSM celebrates the 33rd anniversary of the recognition of its sovereignty

By **Bill Jaynes**
 The Kaselehlie Press

November 4, 2019

Pohnpei-- On November 3rd, 2019, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) celebrated 33 years of independence, with formal celebrations occurring on Monday, November 4th at the FSM-China Friendship Gymnasium in Kolonia, Pohnpei.



The event as it was live streamed can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8JQSB-5f4hM> or by searching on Youtube for “FSM Independence Day 2019.”

It is said that in Pohnpei if it rains during an event it is a sign of blessing. Certainly the Independence Day celebration was blessed beyond measure as torrential rains fell during most of the day. The rain did not dampen the spirits of the several hundred people in attendance.

Augustine Kohler served as the Master of Ceremonies.

Lieutenant Young Han, Chaplain of the U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battle 5 who are doing multiple infrastructure projects in Pohnpei was invited to provide the invocation.

FSM National Police Officers raised the flag as the Sokehs Youth Choir sang the FSM National Anthem.

A member of the A1 Communications Class of PICS High School stirringly recited from memory, the entire preamble of the FSM Constitution.

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Tun and Buchun face State and National charges in murder of Yap Acting Attorney General

By **Bill Jaynes**
 The Kaselehlie Press

October 31, 2019

Yap, FSM—Criminal charges were filed against Anthony Tun and Frances Choay Buchun related to the shooting death of Yap’s former Acting Attorney General, Rachelle Bergeron Hammerling, a U.S. citizen. Both men have had their initial appearances in both State and National courts. Both courts denied bail for them and ordered them held until the outcome of the trials.

The Office of the Governor had previously announced that the names of those charged with crimes related to the murder would not be announced. However, once criminal charges are filed in court, they become a matter of public record. On October 31 the Yap State Court provided copies to The Kaselehlie Press of the criminal complaints filed against Tun and Buchun. On October 30 the FSM Supreme Court in Yap provided copies of the criminal information documents against the same men for violations of national law.

Those documents show that four charges were filed against Tun, the first of them “Murder” because he allegedly shot Rachelle Bergeron Hammerling on the evening of October 14. The State also accuses him of “Conspiracy to Commit” murder saying that “beginning at least one month prior to October 14, 2019, the Defendant and Frances Choay Buchun conspired to kill

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FSM National Government supports proposed U.S. Bill, the "Covering Our FAS Allies Act"

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On October 23rd, 2019 Representatives of the U.S. House of Representatives introduced the Covering Our FAS Allies Act. The bipartisan bill, introduced by the Honorable Tony Cardenas, the Honorable Amata Coleman Radewagen, the Honorable Tulsi Gabbard, the Honorable Steve Womack, the Honorable Ed Case, and the Honorable Gregorio Sablan, would reinstate Medicaid eligibility for citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) living in the United States, in addition to citizens from the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palau. "On behalf of the [FSM], we applaud Rep. Cardenas (D-CA) for his leadership in introducing the Covering our FAS Allies Act to restore Medicaid coverage for citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, who are living in the United States. This important bill will help to ensure that FSM citizens who are lawfully residing, working, and paying taxes in the U.S. will be provided with much needed access to medical care and will help to improve existing healthcare disparities for our citizens," His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the FSM, said.

Medicaid is a crucial U.S. Government program that assists U.S. citizens with low incomes in acquiring necessary medical services. Medicaid was once offered to citizens of the FSM, and the Covering Our FAS Allies Act would reinstate these services. The FSM National Government is deeply appreciative of the introduction of the Covering Our FAS Allies Act, and looks forward to working with its friends and allies to lobby the rest of the U.S. Government for its swift and bipartisan adoption. Citizens of the FSM are encouraged to read the Press Release from U.S. Congressman Tony Cardenas here: <https://cardenas.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/c-rdenas-radewagen-gabbard-womack-case-sablan-introduce-covering-our-fas>

FSM National Election Commission unreachable for official or unofficial results of Con Con election

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

November 8, 2019

FSM—On Tuesday, November 5, voters from throughout the FSM went to the polls to elect the delegates to represent them at the FSM's fourth Constitutional Convention. In March of this year, a simple majority of voters agreed that a Constitutional Convention should be held, a question that must be submitted to the voters at least every 10 years. After that vote, the wheels were set in motion to begin to select the delegates to that convention.

The Constitutional Convention, once formed and seated will decide on proposed changes to the FSM Constitution. The standard provided for in the current Constitution requires that 75 percent or more of the votes in at least 75 percent of the States should be in favor of any proposed changes before they are adopted. It's a high standard to meet and has traditionally been very difficult to accomplish.

The FSM National Election Commission has been unreachable to confirm any of the posts currently on Facebook that purport to be the unofficial results of the election. They have not responded to emails and multiple phone calls to both of their numbers went unanswered. As a result, we were not able to confirm the source or veracity of the many "unofficial results" that have been posted on Facebook.

The FSM Public Information Officer reports that he also has been unable to get any answers to confirm who was actually selected as delegates for each State.

Due to the lack of response from the National Election Commission, we are unable to authoritatively report even on unofficial results.



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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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APIC congratulates former FSM Ambassador Kasio Mida on receiving Japanese Imperial Honors



Star, by the Honorable Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan.

The honor is one of the highest awards that can be given to non-Japanese citizens for their service to promote good relations with Japan. APIC is a private foundation based in Tokyo, Japan that develops programs and initiatives to strengthen relations between Japan and the nations and people of the Caribbean and Pacific Islands.

Ambassador Mida is the first citizen of the FSM, and the other nations of the northwest Micronesia region, to be awarded The Order of the Rising Sun.

“There are few people more deserving of this high honor than Ambassador Mida. He has long been an active proponent of close ties between Japan and the FSM,” said Ambassador Peter Yoshiyasu Sato, APIC’s president and a career diplomat in Japan’s foreign service. “Everyone who knows Ambassador Mida agrees with me.”

Following the presentation of the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star

by the Prime Minister, Ambassador Mida had an audience with His Majesty Emperor Naruhito at the Imperial Palace on November 7. APIC hosted a dinner in honor of Ambassador Mida on November 8th at The Tokyo Club, the oldest social club in Japan.

Ambassador Mida served as FSM Ambassador in Tokyo from 2004-2008. He was also nonresident ambassador to the People’s Republic of China and Republic of Korea. He previously served as FSM Consul General in Honolulu from 1986 to 2004. After Tokyo, he served as Chief of Staff to FSM President Emanuel Mori.

Currently, Ambassador Mida is an Officer of the FSM-Japan Friendship Society, which promotes friendly relations between FSM and Japan and supports Japan’s initiatives in the FSM. He has also just become the representative



of the Association for Promotion of International Cooperation in the FSM, at the request of APIC President Peter Yoshiyasu Sato.

Ambassador Mida is a graduate of Xavier High School in his native Chuuk state, and of Rockhurst College in the United States. He is married to the former Ginger Porter of Pohnpei state. She currently serves as FSM Postmaster General. They have nine children.

TOKYO, Japan – The Association for Promotion of International Cooperation (APIC) is pleased to extend its congratulations to Ambassador Kasio Mida, Sr., former Ambassador to Japan from the Federated States of Micronesia, upon his having been bestowed The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver

New JICA Technical Cooperation for FSM Department of Health and Social Affairs aims at elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis

JICA

August 23, 2019

Palikir, Pohnpei- Mr. Marcus Samo, Acting Secretary of National Department of Health and Social Affairs (DHSA) and Mr. Shinji SHIBATA, Resident Representative of JICA FSM signed the Record of Discussions (hereinafter referred to as R/D) between the two parties on

August 23, 2019 setting in motion “the Project for Elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis in the Pacific Region”. The implementation of the project starts on the date of signature and ends on the 28 of February 2022.

This project is one of six sister Lymphatic Filariasis (LF) elimination projects being implemented throughout the Pacific Region including other

countries such as Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Tuvalu. By collaborating with the World Health Organization’s (WHO) Pacific Program Elimination Lymphatic Filariasis (PacELF), the LF Elimination Project is expected to be a huge contribution to people’s health in FSM.



The FSM Department of Health and Social Affairs has collaborated with JICA and WHO in the movement to eradicate LF from the FSM since 2001. JICA has donated test kits and medical supplies with all equipment passing inspection upon arrival by FSM Immunization program. The test kits were and are still being utilized during campaigns and surveys throughout FSM. With this new project, JICA continues its support in contributing to healthy lives and wellness in FSM. JICA recognizes the health sector as a priority issue in the FSM and will continue to cooperate with FSM Department of Health and Social Affairs and provide support in this area.

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...FSM Independence

Continued from front page

FSM President David Panuelo took the podium next. "You can draw the distinction that we became a country with aspirations of self-determination when we ratified our Constitution in May 1979, and became a fully-fledged independent Nation when we signed our Treaty with the United States in 1986. And by the virtue of the action by the United Nations, dissolving the Trusteeship Council. Thanks to you, our citizens, and in particular our Founding Fathers," he said during his opening and asked the crowd to give a round of applause for Bethwel Henry, the first speaker of the FSM Congress.

"One might ask: what is the destination of our journey—and how will we know when we've reached it? Our canoe's destination is self-reliance, which can only be achieved by you, and I, and all of us working together, paddling our canoe as we sing the same song in harmony," he said. "We will know that we have reached our destination when our National and State Governments are adequately prepared to fully provide essential services – like education, health, and infrastructure, among others – to the citizens of our young and growing Nation.

"We will know that we have reached our destination when the Youth, like the ones who are represented today and throughout our country, are fully prepared to continue the responsibilities of the Nation-building process, with much greater capacity and even firmer resolve... We'll know that we have reached our destination when every Micronesian who lives abroad lives there because they choose to do so—not because they feel forced to do so. We'll know that

we have reached our destination when we can look in the mirror and not only recognize who we are, but feel proud of it, all of us and all the time."

President Panuelo's speech was followed by a speech by Vice Speaker of the FSM Congress Esmond Moses, whose own father was a founding father of the FSM. He remarked on the President's use of the word "pride" and encouraged every citizen to view the FSM and its heritage with pride.

Founding father Bethwel Henry then took the podium and told stories of the early days of the FSM.

Mercedes Olter gave a stirring speech as a youth representative challenging the youth of today to arm themselves with information and to again establish strong face to face connections with each other rather than the impersonality of social media.

A representative of the Mwoalen Wahu, Pohnpei's traditional leaders, closed the official portion of the program.

After a short intermission during which food was available for the audience, the entertainment portion of the program began during which groups with origins through at least three of the States presented cultural performances. Unfortunately the group who would have represented Kosrae was not in attendance.

A brass band from the US Air Force provided by the US Embassy also performed embouchure (the name for the way a player's lips are used to play a



wind instrument) stretching performances. The Islanders Band served as the house band for the event and Kester James served as the master of ceremonies, occasionally singing harmony with the Islanders Band.

The performances featured dances from the Mwokilese Women's Group. Sponsored by the Australian Embassy, a choir from Nanpei Memorial High School performed. The group Nan Welin Rohi from Pohnpei performed Pohnpeian traditional dance. Two separate Yapese groups, and a Chuukese group performed their unique traditional dances as well. Always a crowd pleaser, the Mwokilese Warriors performed the fierce routine they are said to have performed over the ages to scare away occupants of sailing vessels approached their islands.

The 33rd Independence Day was attended by the members of the Diplomatic Corps, the Seabees, and a visiting Ambassador from Singapore in addition to State and National officials.

Though the event in Kolonia was the official event in the FSM to celebrate Independence Day, many other events were held by Micronesians throughout the world including a large event in Guam and a reception at the FSM Embassy in Washington DC.



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PARENTS ARE INVITED!

President Panuelo has meeting with U.S. Interagency visiting team

“I hope that our [Compact Negotiations] can reflect the maturity of our two countries at this time and in this stage of our relationship”, President Panuelo

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On October 31st, 2019 His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), received a team of U.S. Government officials representing multiple agencies, including the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Department of Defense, and the U.S. Department of Interior, who were visiting the FSM in order to gather information prior to the negotiations on the expiring provisions of the Compact of Free Association, as Amended. The U.S. delegation was led by the Honorable Suzanne Lawrence, Director for the Office of Australia, New Zealand, and Pacific Islands in the U.S. Department of State.

often as possible—that the U.S. is the Nation’s first and foremost ally. The President noted his appreciation for the close attention the Nation has received from the U.S. in his administration so far, and from all levels, including multiple visits to Washington, D.C on behalf of the FSM to visit the U.S. Government, including the historic visit with His Excellency Donald J. Trump, President of the United States, in May, and the visits from the Honorable Robert L. Wilkie, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Honorable Michael “Mike” Pompeo, Secretary of the U.S. Department of State, to the FSM in July and August 2019 respectively.

“In our meeting with [the Honorable] David Hale, [Under Secretary of the U.S. Department of State], we were told about this team,” President Panuelo began. “So welcome. We’re going to be listening to you, what you have to say. But I believe that it is important that, number one, when you leave, we have some framework of negotiation parameters; and number two is the timeframe [by which to commence the Compact negotiations].”

“We appreciate that so much has happened, and we’re grateful because we’re ready to begin talking parameters [on the Compact negotiations] going forward,” President Panuelo continued. “But what I want to say, and I’ll say it again, is that I hope that our talks can reflect the maturity of our two countries at this time, and in this stage of our relationship, and that we can see what bottlenecks might have been there...that we try to clean out some of those things.”

President Panuelo described the close and enduring relationship between the FSM and the U.S., noting again—and emphasizing that he’d repeat it as

The President described his vision of seeing, among other things, infrastructure funding from the Compact freed up so that it can be used



in a manner that is both highly effective and highly visible.

Director Lawrence was quick to note her team’s appreciation for hearing what the President had to say with regards to the upcoming negotiations, and also with regards to his proactive stance on meeting with U.S. Government officials. The Director advised that it was her hope that, upon the completion of the interagency team’s travels, there will be momentum in the U.S. Government to move the negotiation process forward.

“Thank you for having us,” Director Lawrence said. “And for starting us off on the right foot. As [Secretary Pompeo] said—we want to get this right, so I think taking the time to understand what exactly is helpful is more important than trying to rush into something.”

President Panuelo agreed with Director Lawrence’s sentiments, emphasizing again that the U.S. is the Nation’s closest ally and that, by extension, the negotiations on the Compact should have a warm and cordial atmosphere.

His Excellency Robert A. Riley III, Ambassador of the United States to the FSM, noted that he’s trying to get Director Lawrence to join the annual Joint Committee Meeting between the FSM and the U.S., to be held sometime between January or February of 2020.

President Panuelo invited Director Lawrence to return as often as possible, noting that the more aware the U.S. interagency team is of the FSM not only an intellectual level, but on a visceral level too (e.g. by visiting Nan Madol, or diving in Chuuk Lagoon), that the Compact negotiations will necessarily proceed more smoothly.

First Tax Education and Awareness Program in Pohnpei Elementary and High Schools

FSM Customs and Tax

The Office of the FSM Customs and Tax Administration and Pohnpei State Department of Education agreed to run a Tax Education and Awareness Program in all public elementary schools and high schools around the island and the outer islands. With the approval of the State Governor, the Honorable Marcello K. Peterson, this program is able to take place.

A team headed by Mr. Kohler Carl Deputy Assistant Secretary launched this historical event on October 1, 2019. Target students are 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. The Awareness team has visited 11 elementary schools in Kolonia (2), Nett (2), U (2), Madolenihmw (3) and Kittu (2). Approximately 1,083 students have participated in this tax education program. Twenty (20) elementary schools, the three (3) high schools are yet to be visited including the outer islands. With the assistance of Acting Director Mr. Jolden Lipai and his DOE team, tax education activities are implemented as planned.

We have started with our children and will continue with our business community and the general public. All of these education and awareness programs are aimed at increasing tax compliance with our tax laws.



The FSM is committed to extending peace, friendship, cooperation, and love in our common humanity to all nations and peoples, and has a special and enduring relationship with the United States codified through the Compact of Free Association. It is the hope of the FSM National Government that the negotiations on the expiring provisions of the Compact will begin and end sooner rather than later.

Citizens interested in learning more about the negotiations in their current state are encouraged to visit the website of the Joint Committee on Compact Review & Planning (JCRP) here: <https://jcrp.gov.fm/>

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Please take notice that as of June 30, 2019, the following SAVINGS and CHECKING ACCOUNTS on deposit with Bank of Guam[®] are inactive and the account holders listed below must immediately contact their respective Bank of Guam[®] Branch, otherwise, the funds contained in these accounts will be transferred to the Secretary of Finance during the month of January 2020, pursuant to 29 FSMC §106 (16) and 29 FSMC §602 and under the procedures set forth in 17 FSMC §102. Please take note that after January 2020, all inquiries pertaining to the accounts below must be directed to the Secretary of Finance.

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5th Annual FSM Auditors Conference in Chuuk

Pohnpei Office of the Public Auditor

Chuuk, FSM – The 5th Annual FSM Public Auditors Conference/Traning was held at the Chuuk State Executive Building Auditorium on October 14 to 17, 2019 and was hosted by Chuuk State Public Auditor Office. This annual conference brings together auditors from throughout FSM to receive valuable continuing professional education that helps improve accountability and transparency and achieve good governance. A 32-hours course entitled, “A Noble Profession: Performance Auditing for Maximum Value and Impact” was offered during the conference. Mr. Kip Memmott, Audits Director for Oregon Secretary of State’s Office conducted the training. The

primary focus of the training is to help the Federated States of Micronesia auditors enhance the value and impact of their important performance audit work. The training was attended by 46 auditors from the four (4) states of FSM. Principals’ meeting was held on October 18, 2019 at Chuuk State Finance Conference Room. All of the Public Auditors from FSM were present at the meeting including; Ihlen K. Joseph of Pohnpei Office of the Public Auditor; Manny San Jose, Chuuk State Public Auditor; Stoney Taulang, Kosrae State Public Auditor; Achilles Defngin, Yap State Public Auditor and Haser Hainrick, Office of the National Public Auditor. Closing dinner was held at Blue Lagoon Resort.



...Bergeron Murder

Continued from front page

Ms. Rachele Bergeron...The Defendant took overt acts to effect the object of the conspiracy, including planning the murder weeks in advance and arranging for weapons and ammunition.”

The State has also charged Tun with reckless endangering because several buckshot passed through the walls of Bergeron’s house where her husband and a twelve year old girl were residing, thereby endangering them both. They charged him also with Malicious Mischief.

The State charged Buchun with Conspiracy to Murder, accusing him of taking “overt acts to effect the object of the conspiracy, including, without limitation, the provision of the murder weapon, driving Anthony Tun Teteth to and from the location of the murder, and assisting in planning the shooting.”

The FSM National Government also filed charges against the two men at the FSM Supreme Court. The government charged Teteth, known as defendant

“Tun” with acquiring and possessing a 12 gauge shotgun in violation of FSM law. Yap’s laws are more stringent than FSM national law and allow no possession of a firearm other than by law enforcement officials and the FSM prosecutes firearms possession laws under the locally prevailing laws. However, the possession of a 12 gauge shot gun is not allowed in any FSM jurisdiction. The FSM Government also charged him with using the weapon to commit a felony, “namely, the murder of Rachele Bergeron”.

The government charged Buchun with acquiring and/or possessing associated ammunition for a 12 gauge shotgun and for acquiring or possessing that illegal weapon for purposes of assisting in the murder of Rachele Bergeron.

The courts sealed the affidavits of probable cause leading to the criminal charges and no motives were discussed in the documents specifying the criminal charges.

Under a Joint Law Enforcement Agreement, the FSM Department of Justice has agreed to assist with the prosecution in Yap State Court.

Tun and Buchun will have their next appearance in the FSM Supreme court on December 19, 2019 according to the FSM Supreme Court calendar on their website. The docket for the Yap State Court is not available online.

All defendants are presumed to be innocent unless it is otherwise proven in Court.

US citizens in Pohnpei discuss impact of Yap murder on their feelings of personal security in FSM

*By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press*

November 7, 2019

Pohnpei—On November 7, US Ambassador to the FSM Robert Riley conducted a Town Hall styled meeting for U.S. citizens residing in Pohnpei at his residence in Nanpohnmal, Pohnpei, specifically to discuss the impact of the murder in Yap of Rachele Bergeron Hammerling, a U.S. citizen. He said that he wanted to try to begin to determine whether or not U.S. citizens felt that her tragic death was indicative of changes in the FSM that might adversely affect their security.

He invited the members of the small crowd to share their personal feelings regarding their own safety in the FSM.

More than one person, including the editor of The Kaselehlie Press, said that they had been personally threatened. However, they also agreed that they don’t currently feel threatened. None felt that those situations were indicative of life in the FSM in general. “I feel more secure in Pohnpei than I would feel living in the United States or the Philippines,” one of the participants commented. “For the most part I have found Pohnpeians to be even more

civil, polite, and (to) have better manners even than Americans do,” he continued.

While there seemed to be a general consensus on that opinion, they agreed that not everything is perfect. “My concern is when people in position of power, wealth or authority foster an environment that breeds contempt for law and order, by innuendo threatens law enforcement, and by the use of disinformation spread fake news,” one participant said.

The citizens also wanted to know if any progress had been made in the case of Michelle Layola whose remains were presumed to have been found in a wooded area in Sekere on September 21 of this year. The Pohnpei government had said that they would be requesting the help of an outside forensic pathologist but it was never done and Michelle’s remains were released to the family, interrupting a chain of evidence that might have been used to identify her killer. No one has yet been charged with any crime related to Michelle Layola.

One of the participants said that the news from Yap and from Pohnpei is certainly unsettling but he felt that a better information flow from the U.S. Embassy might help to ease the minds of U.S. citizens.



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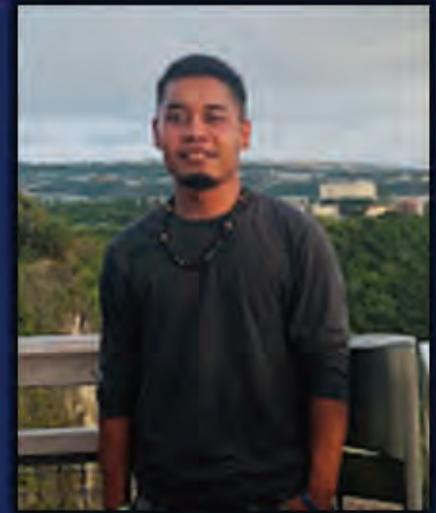
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President Panuelo tours Chinese development assistance projects in Pohnpei

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On November 6th, 2019, His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), toured various ongoing development projects in the FSM State of Pohnpei implemented by the People's Republic of China (China) with His Excellency Huang Zheng, Ambassador of China to the FSM. The President visited the Kahmar Bridge project site, the Madolenihmw Secondary Roads project site, and the China AID Pilot Farm in Madolenihmw. This release will describe the status of each of these projects, as well as agreements made between President Panuelo and Ambassador Huang regarding requests for additional Chinese development assistance.

The first site President Panuelo visited was the Kahmar Bridge Project, which began on June 26th, 2019, with an estimated completion date of April 25th, 2020. "By April! That's a very fast delivery; I'm impressed," President Panuelo said.

The bridge will be 56 meters long (~184 feet) and 10 meters wide (~33 feet). Presently, the steel bar colligation of eight pile foundations, the abutment cap, and the #1 and #2 piers and precast beam have been completed.

The team from China AID (China's humanitarian development assistance organization) explained that there are some issues that require the FSM National Government's intervention. Specifically, China AID advised it has been having difficulty coordinating with the Pohnpei Utility Corporation (PUC) and FSM Telecommunications Corporation (FSMTC) who are being asked to relocate power and telecom lines.

While the FSM National Government fully supports both PUC and FSMTC in their vital roles in providing utility services to the people of the FSM State of Pohnpei, President Panuelo noted that the Nation also values the contributions of China AID. The President suggested that he would discuss the matter with relevant officials in the FSM National Government, and potentially beyond, to understand the concerns in more detail and to rectify them.

The second site President Panuelo visited was the Madolenihmw Secondary Road Project, which also began on June 26th, 2019 but has a scheduled completion date of December 25th, 2020 (i.e. Christmas next year).

The project includes the reconstruction of six roads, and newly constructed

transportation facilities, with a total road length of 8.7 kilometers (~5.4 miles). Presently, two roads with a length of 2.6 kilometers (~1.6 miles) have been cleared. Additionally, work has occurred on four circular culverts, as well as substantial roadbed filling, roadbed excavation, and riprapping (i.e. to form a foundation with loose stone) and silting (i.e. the process of becoming filled, or blocked, with silt).

The team from China AID explained that it would appreciate the FSM National Government's assistance in rectifying a potential roadblock in the project's completion. Specifically, the total amount of coral sand needed for the Madolenihmw Secondary Road Project is approximately 100,000 cubic yards—and the amount they've received so far is 6,000 (i.e. 6% of what they need). It was advised that the two companies supplying coral sand can provide, at most, 1,500 cubic yards per month—thus, China AID had the idea of renting their construction equipment to the suppliers in order to promote efficiency and output. China AID alleges, however, that it was asked not to do that by the Pohnpei State Government.

With the understanding that the FSM National Government seeks to both support the Nation's states (e.g. with the Madolenihmw Secondary Road Project), as well as maintain friendly relations with its development partners (e.g. China), for the broader purpose of improving the lives of the Nation's citizens, President Panuelo noted the concern and promised he would address it with the Pohnpei State Government. "I'll talk to the Governor about this," President Panuelo said. "I know that he supports these projects and wants to serve the people of Pohnpei as much as we all do."

The third site President Panuelo visited was the China AID Pilot Farm. The farm—which includes a piggery with an accompanying biogas digester—grows a wide variety of fruits and vegetables, such as leeks, peanuts, cabbage, dragonfruit, watermelon, chili peppers, Pohnpeian pepper, and much more. The farm has served the FSM State of Pohnpei for more than 20 years.

"I'm very impressed with this successful project," President Panuelo said to Ambassador Huang, noting that the farm demonstrates that an abundance of healthy local produce, rich in variety, is possible.

In light of the Nation's ongoing epidemic with non-communicable diseases (NCDs), the President advised Ambassador Huang that he was interested in seeing how the Pilot Farm's operations could potentially expand—both within Pohnpei, and in the FSM States of Yap, Chuuk, and Kosrae. The President also suggested that he would discuss with the FSM Department of Foreign Affairs to send official requests, via diplomatic note, regarding China's assistance in developing mushroom and coconut plantations.

"I want to say thank you to you, Ambassador [Huang], and all the workers who are here. This is the testimony to the very good relations that we have. We thank the generosity of your Government in realizing our infrastructure development needs. So, on behalf of our Government, I want to thank you Ambassador, and express our appreciation," President Panuelo said.

The FSM National Government truly appreciates the generosity of the Chinese Government for the quality of workmanship, and the quality of work that China-AID—via the China Railway Construction Corporation Ltd—is doing in implementing the many Belt & Road infrastructure projects in the FSM. The Nation further appreciates the ongoing efforts of the China AID Pilot Farm in democratizing access to nutritious and locally

grown food.

"I always repeat that part of the preamble of our Constitution," President Panuelo said, "That says that we extend to other nations that which we seek from each: peace, friendship, cooperation, and love in our common humanity. I hope all of our citizens at home and abroad, and the citizens of all the other countries, can see that it is possible for everyone to have peace with, friendship with, cooperation with, and love with, all peoples and nations."

The FSM National Government is committed to extending peace, friendship, cooperation, and love in our common humanity with all countries and peoples across the world. The FSM and China celebrated their 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations on September 11th, 2019.



President Panuelo and the China AID Pilot Farm Manager pose with peanuts



President Panuelo and Ambassador Huang pose with the CRCC team working on Madolenihmw's Secondary Roads; also seen is the President's message thanking the CRCC team for their efforts



President Panuelo, First Lady Edwin, Ambassador Huang, and Mrs. Huang, pose with the Kahmar Bridge Project team

FSM deposits its Ocean Baselines and Maritime Boundary with the United Nations

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On October 25th, 2019, the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) deposited with the United Nations in New York the FSM Maritime Baselines, pursuant to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). A delegation from Palikir presented to the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS), which is the UN Office in charge of maritime boundaries, the relevant maps of the FSM together with the list of geographical coordinates depicting the country's baselines and maritime zones. Baselines serve as reference lines from which the territorial sea, the contiguous and the exclusive economic zone (EEZ), and even the continental shelf beyond the EEZ, are measured.

Also on October 25th, the FSM deposited with the United Nations Treaty Section its Maritime Boundary Delimitation Treaty with the United States. Whereas the Charter of the United Nations requires official deposit of this treaty, the FSM is keen on ensuring that treaties it concluded with other countries are officially registered and recognized through the UN process.

The boundary with the United States is the median line between FSM and the U.S. Territory of Guam. The FSM and the U.S. signed the boundary treaty in 2014, during the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Leaders' Meeting in the Republic of Palau. The negotiation on the treaty took place earlier in that year in Honolulu, with legal experts and technical advisers from both sides

giving consideration to the international practice of utilizing the equidistance (i.e. equally distant) principle in delimiting their overlapping EEZ. The resulting boundary between FSM and the US is a median (i.e. middle) line between their outermost islands. FSM also used the equidistance principle for its boundaries with Papua New Guinea, the Republic of Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palau, respectively.

The official deposit consists of large-scale charts and hundreds of pages of listings of geographical coordinates defining the baselines, the EEZ, the territorial sea, and the contiguous zone generated in reference to the FSM's baselines.

The coordinates deposited with the United Nations will constitute the FSM's official boundary, and will be used as legal reference lines in enforcing national fisheries laws and regulations that aim to preserve the Nation's sovereign rights with respect to valuable marine resources, especially tuna stocks, within the FSM's waters. The FSM informed His Excellency António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, that the act of depositing the national baselines is without prejudice to the future establishment of archipelagic baselines, and any future delineation of the outer



Acting Secretary of Justice Leonito Bacalando, Jr. (4th from left) officially presented to Mr. Vladimir Jares, Deputy Director, Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs, United Nations, the Maritime Baselines and Boundary of the Federated States of Micronesia consisting of large charts and four volumes of geographical coordinates defining the baselines and maritime zones of FSM. Joining the occasion were FSM Deputy Permanent Representative Jeem S. Lippwe (far right) and Mr. Alik Jackson, Staff Attorney of the FSM Congress.

limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles from national baselines.

The FSM has previously filed several claims of extended continental shelf areas beyond the 200 nautical miles of EEZ. The most recent claim, favorably recommended by the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (the "Commission"), was a 600,000-mile joint claim together with Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands. Two other areas are awaiting future consideration by the Commission. Additional extended continental shelf area bounded by Palau will be lodged

with the Commission in the near future.

The FSM National Government is committed to securing its maritime boundaries and legal entitlements both within and beyond the normal EEZ, as recognized by international law, for the benefit of future generations of Micronesians. To secure these complex and highly technical claims, the Nation has conducted dialogues and negotiations with its neighboring countries in order to minimize the possibility of disputes especially on vast areas of overlapping maritime zones that are often of mutual interest among the FSM's neighbors.

Kamber donates new equipment to Pohnpei State Hospital

*By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press*

November 6, 2019

Pohnpei—Dr. John Hedson, Chief Surgeon of Pohnpei State Hospital accepted a donation of a brand new orthopedic table for the hospital's operating room on Wednesday. Marko Kamber, CEO of Caroline Fisheries Corporation personally donated the table which Dr. Hedson says will assist surgeons when they are resetting broken bones.

Kamber said that he has also donated two beds for traction that will be arriving on the next ship.

When asked why he decided on those particular pieces of medical equipment, Kamber said that he likes to make a personal donation to the hospital each year and so he asked Dr. Hedson what the hospital could use.



US Compact listening tour meets with JCRP

*Joint Committee on Compact Review & Planning
FSM Information Services
Joint Press Release*

November 5, 2019

KOLONIA, Pohnpei—The Joint Committee on Compact Review and Planning (JCRP) was visited by a team from the United States Government Interagency Group preparing for the negotiations on the amended Compact and held a meeting on November 1, 2019 to hear from the JCRP what has worked and what has not under the current terms of the amended Compact of Free Association. The Compact of Free Association was signed by the U.S. and FSM in 1986 and further amended in 2003. The visit to the FSM was similar to those made earlier to the Republic of Palau and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

The visiting team was headed by Suzanne Lawrence, Director for the Office of Australia, New Zealand and Pacific Islands Affairs in the U.S. Department of State. Other members included Sarah Jorgenson, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs, Department of the Interior; Ernesto Uribe, Regional Director for East Asia and Pacific, Office of U.S. Foreign Assistance Resources, Department of State; Steve Savage, Lead Specialist, Office of Insular Affairs, Department of the Interior; and Meghan Kleinsteiber, Desk Officer, EAP/ANP, Department of State. The team members were joined by U.S. Ambassador to the FSM Robert Riley.

While the meeting was not a formal opening of the negotiations on the amended Compact, the visit came about two months after the U.S. Secretary of State, Michael R. Pompeo, announced while visiting His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the FSM, in Pohnpei that the U.S. was prepared to open talks to extend those provisions. The delegation met with the JCRP Chairman Asterio R. Takesy, representing the State of Chuuk; JCRP Chief Negotiator Leo A. Falcam, Jr.; Vice-Speaker of the FSM Congress Esmond B. Moses, representing Pohnpei State; Senator Aren B. Palik and Gerson A. Jackson, representing the State of Kosrae; Victor Nabeyan, representing the State of Yap;

Bethwel Henry, representing Pohnpei State; and Lorin S. Robert, Advisor to the President on Foreign and Governmental Affairs, representing the National Government. Two members of JCRP were unable to attend due to prior commitments: Speaker of the FSM Congress Wesley W. Simina, representing the State of Chuuk; and Senator Isaac V. Figir, representing the State of Yap.

The meeting opened in the morning with welcoming remarks by Chairman Takesy, who not only welcomed the delegation but also thanked them for the opportunity to exchange views in preparation for the upcoming more formal talks. The Chairman traced the history of the special relationship shared by the two nations and the path that has led to the current Compact arrangement. He stressed the importance of the Compact and the much-needed U.S. assistance and also noted that the Compact relationship should evolve as necessary to reflect new realities and new challenges, such as that posed to the FSM by issues such as climate change.

JCRP Chief Negotiator Falcam reiterated the Chairman's welcome and stated that the FSM looked forward to a fruitful discussion during the visit. He highlighted several specific goals for the meeting and issues that the FSM looked forward to discussing, including a draft framework for the negotiations.

Ms. Lawrence stressed the rich shared history and values of the two nations and how these common characteristics has led to deep and lasting bonds reflected in the amended Compact relationship. She highlighted the renewed U.S. focus on the Indo-Pacific region demonstrated by the recent visit of Secretary Pompeo to the FSM.

In the afternoon, the meeting was devoted to discussions with the National Government executive departments, offices and agencies concerning the work in their sectors that is made possible because of U.S. Compact funding. The meeting afforded an opportunity for the team to meet the individuals in the FSM national government who will be implementing the new agreement

President Panuelo Swears-In Teresa Filepin as Consul General in Guam



FSM Information Services

HAGATNA, Guam—On October 25th, 2019 His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), conducted the oath of office ceremony for the Honorable Teresa Filepin, Consul General of the FSM based in the U.S. Territory of Guam.

“Do you, Teresa Filepin, solemnly swear that you will faithfully execute the duties and responsibilities of the office to which you have been appointed, and will, to the best of your ability, uphold, promote, and support the laws and Constitution of the Federated States of Micronesia, so help you God?” said President Panuelo.

“I do,” said Consul General Filepin.

“I demand hard work by our officials for our citizens—and Teresa, I thank you for all the hard working you’re doing,” President Panuelo said in his remarks.

“Thank you, Mr. President...it’s a real honor and privilege, and thank you for your trust and your support in believing in me to be a part of your team to serve the citizens of the FSM. ...We have a good team [here in Guam], and among the circle in this room are members of that team who have been very instrumental in making things work positively for our citizens.”

The FSM National Government is proud to have Consul General Filepin on its team of dedicated foreign service personnel.

and provided an overview of efforts underway to augment the assistance the FSM receives under the Compact with other sources of revenue and assistance.

Chief Negotiator Falcam concluded the meeting by thanking the team for a constructive session and an excellent start to a process that will continue into 2020. He also expressed the appreciation of the FSM team for Ms. Lawrence’s leadership and her commitment to the U.S.-FSM relationship through these talks on the expiring provisions of the Compact. Chief Falcam noted that the FSM is keenly interested in keeping the discussion moving as quickly as possible to achieve Secretary Pompeo’s commitment to address the expiring provisions of the amended Compact well in advance of FY 2023,

noting that the process would be lengthy on both sides. He, therefore, recommended aiming for a technical working session between the two governments early next year at the latest.

Ms. Lawrence agreed on the importance of making progress, stating that her team would work to arrange technical discussions as soon as possible to move the process forward.

Upon arrival of the Listening Tour team in Pohnpei on October 31, the team paid courtesy calls on His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia, and Vice-Speaker Moses. The team departed Pohnpei on Saturday, November 2, 2019.

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P.O. Box 1180

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Commissioner's Office

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TIMETABLE

For November 12, 2019

PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 10 OF THE POHNPEI ELECTION CODE	IMPORTANT DUE DATES (DEADLINES)	EVENTS/ACTIVITIES
Legal Residence 10 PC §1 – 103(6)	Close: Nov. 12, 2018	A person registering to vote may only be designated as his or her legal residence if the person was born in the local jurisdiction or he or she has actually resided in the local jurisdiction for at least one (1) year preceding the date of the next election.
General Election – when held 10 PC §6 - 102	November 12, 2019	General Election for the Governor, Lt. Governor and the Legislators shall be held simultaneously every four years, on the second Tuesday in November .
Time for filing Nomination Petitions 10 PC §5 – 111 as amended by S.L. No. 9L-110-19	Open: July 5, 2019 Close: Aug. 14, 2019	In the general elections, nominating petitions for candidates to elective office shall be filed with the Election Commissioner no more than one hundred (100) days or less than ninety (90) days prior to the scheduled date of the election.
Request for Absentee Ballot Off Island 10 PC §6 – 116 as amended by S.L. No. 9L-110-19	Open: June 15, 2019 Close: Oct. 3, 2019	Request for absentee ballots shall be made to the Election Commissioner in writing not more than one hundred fifty (150) days nor less than forty (40) days prior to the date of the election.
Request for Absentee Ballot On Island 10 PC §6 – 116 as amended by S.L. No. 9L-110-19	Open: Oct. 13, 2019 Close: Nov. 11, 2019	Request for absentee ballots by reason of Travel shall be made to the Election Commissioner in writing not more than thirty (30) days nor less than one (1) day prior to the date of the election.
Voting by Confiner Voters 10 PC §6 – 115 as amended by S.L. No. 9L-110-19	Open: Oct. 13, 2019 November 11, 2019	Any registered voter qualified to vote at any general or special election who is physically present in the state but who is confined or hospitalized because of illness or physical disability as will prevent him or her from attending the polls shall request for an absentee ballot with the election commissioner not more than thirty (30) days nor less than one (1) day prior to the date of the election.
Marking and returning of absentee ballots: 10 PC §6 – 117 as amended by S.L. No. 9L-110-19	October 3, 2019	Not less than forty (40) days prior to the date of the election, the election commissioner shall send to persons who is entitled to vote by absentee ballot outside the state and who request the same, a ballot envelope, affidavit and a covering reply envelope.
POSTMARKED ballot envelope	November 11, 2019	The ballot envelope and the affidavit shall be enclosed and sealed in the covering envelope and shall be postmarked NOT later than MIDNIGHT on the day before the election.
Absentee ballots Must be received	November 21, 2019	Absentee ballots must be received by the Election Commissioner prior to the close of business, no later than seven (7) working days after the election day.
Substitute Candidate 10 PC §5 - 115 as amended by S.L. No. 9L-110-19	Five (5) days after a vacancy is declared	If a candidate for Governor, Lieutenant Governor or other singular elected position dies, withdraws or disqualified after the deadline for filing nomination petitions resulting in either not candidate or an unopposed candidate, substitute candidate may be nominated following the same procedure as the candidate who died, withdrew or was disqualified.
Recount 10 PC §7 – 101(3)	One week (7) days after certification date	Petition for recount must be filed within one week (7) days of certification of the result of the election.
Run-Off Elections 10 PC §6 - 103	December 10, 2019	Runoff elections shall be held 28 days after the date of the general election. In a runoff election, there is no write in ballots

President Panuelo asks Singapore to provide vocational training of trainers & curriculum development

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On October 31st, 2019 His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) received His Excellency Verghese Mathews, Ambassador of the Republic of Singapore, in a courtesy call. While the meeting covered many topics, perhaps the topic of most relevance to citizens of the FSM was the President’s request for Singapore’s assistance in providing vocational training opportunities and curriculum development for a proposed regional vocational education center.

“Ambassador—we are of course very delighted to welcome you here,” President Panuelo began, describing the Nation’s goal to revitalize its own capacity-building capabilities, particularly in the area of vocational education. “We’re exploring reviving [Pohnpei Agriculture & Trade School] as a regional institution across Micronesia, because our youth need to be trained in-country with skills for our internal development.”

“I know that Singapore,” President Panuelo continued, “has come from very humble beginnings, and turned into one of the leading countries in Asia, if not the world. Right now [in the FSM], we still hire people from overseas who have technical skills—and we want to be able to change that, where our people can develop their skills internally at home.”

Ambassador Mathews thanked the President for the Nation’s support for Singapore’s candidatures to the

International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO), and then described Singapore’s growth as an independent republic, and how investing in its own human resources was necessary for the country’s economic development. “We’ll be interested in helping [the FSM with training],” the Ambassador said. “In 1992, we started the Singapore Cooperation Program, it specializes in training. From 1992 until today, we have trained about 128,000 people.”

The Ambassador advised that approximately 110 citizens of the FSM are included in that group of 128,000 individuals who have received training, and noted that Singapore is keen to increase that number.

“The training is for officials, but we do train the trainers as well,” Ambassador Mathews said, noting that Singapore will look into how it can offer vocational education training of trainers after it receives a formal proposal and request from the FSM National Government.

President Panuelo noted that the FSM National Government is actively pursuing and developing its plan to create a world-class regional vocational education institution, and that a Training of Trainers provided by Singapore would be ideal to ensure the institution’s success.

The meeting ended on a positive note, with President Panuelo and Ambassador Mathews reaffirming the close friendship between the FSM and Singapore.



President Panuelo poses with Ambassador Mathews and his associate from Singapore’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Emilio Eperiam
Pohnpei Election Commissioner
Pohnpei State Government
Kolonia, Pohnpei FM 96941

June 6, 2019
Date

Opinion Editorial

Chinese loan is not A Trick but a Treat

Recently, the Lowy Institute, a well-known Australian think tank, published a research report entitled “Ocean of debt? Belt and Road and debt diplomacy in the Pacific”, which has made a correct conclusion that China has not been engaged in “debt trap” diplomacy in the Pacific. Many of the contents and ideas in this report are in line with the actual situation. Facts speak louder than words. This once again proves that China's sincere and selfless assistance to the Pacific island countries has been fairly evaluated. We welcome it.

Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, in the Pacific island countries, China has always developed a comprehensive strategic partnership of mutual respect and common development with the Pacific island countries in accordance with the true concept of sincerity and correct views. China pursues cooperation with Pacific island countries based on the principles of equality, mutual benefit, openness and sustainability. From project selection to investment and financing cooperation, all decisions are made with mutual consent. China provides loans based on recipients' will to areas with funding shortfalls in urgent need of development. Our foreign aid has the following four principles: First is equality. China's assistance fully respects the will of governments and people of other countries, never interferes in other countries' internal affairs, and never attaches any political conditions. Second is mutual benefit. China's assistance has always been for mutual benefit and win-win results. All construction projects have been subject to careful feasibility studies and scientific verification, and full consideration has been given to the fiscal sustainability of all countries. Third is openness. China's assistance is never targeted at any third party and is committed to expanding the pie of cooperation. Fourth is sustainability. China's aid follows the principle of “helping friends to know how to fish instead of just giving fishes”, helping recipient countries overcome bottlenecks in development, enhance hematopoietic function and promote independent and sustainable development.

China's assistance to the FSM is all gratuitous grants without any loans, and is always guided by the actual and urgent needs of the people of the FSM. According to the Lowy Institute's report, there is no risk for the FSM government to accept loans. So far, the FSM has not asked for a loan from China. Therefore, China respects demand of the FSM and has never imposed loans on others. This is

a strong proof that China has never pursued a debt trap policy in the Pacific island region.

Just a few days ago the third China-Pacific Island Countries Economic Development and Cooperation Forum was held in the capital of Samoa. Many Pacific island countries' leaders spoke highly of Chinese assistance to their economic development. China is willing to work with all sides to implement the consensus of leaders, deepen strategic docking, promote joint efforts to pursue “Belt and Road” initiative, share development experience, enhance the sustainable development ability of island countries, expand trade and investment exchanges, and cooperation in agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy resources, oceans and tourism, promote exchanges between people and people, and further enrich the content of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between China and the Pacific island countries.

China's assistance to the FSM is the most sincere and selfless assistance, without attaching any political conditions or imposing any conditions on others. The real and urgent need of the FSM is the direction of China's assistance. Up to now, China has implemented or been implementing nearly 20 turn key projects and economic and technological cooperation projects in the FSM, including those delivered and put to use, such as the pilot farm, the Y-12 aircraft, the passenger-cargo ship in Yap and Chuuk, the multifunctional gymnasium across FSM, the bridge in Kosrae and the new Chuuk State office buildings complex, as well as the undergoing secondary road and Kahmar bridge reconstruction project in Pohnpei and FSM National Convention Center. There are also some projects proposed and under review, including the maintenance of state government office building in Pohnpei. China has provided more than 300 scholarship opportunities and trained more than 500 management and technical personnel for the FSM.

China regards the FSM as an important partner in the joint pursuit construction of the “Belt and Road” initiative and will continue to uphold the concept of “helping friends to know how to fish instead of just giving fishes” proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping, and increase investment in fields of science, education, culture, health, and non-governmental exchanges on the basis of traditional areas of cooperation like infrastructure, economic and technical assistance and agriculture and fishery cooperation, and work together to pursue the “Belt and Road” initiative and build a Community with a Shared Future for the Humanity. The “Belt and Road” initiative is the largest platform for international cooperation and a concrete measure to realize the goal of building a Community with a Shared Future for the Humanity. It has been widely supported by many countries in the world and will surely provide a powerful impetus for the bright future of both China and the FSM. We warmly welcome the close cooperation with other countries in the world to jointly pursue the “Belt and Road” initiative and build a Community with a Shared Future for the Humanity to better serve the peoples of China, the FSM and other countries of the world. Many facts attest to the welcome that China enjoys, extended by the island governments and peoples, for the tangible benefits brought by cooperation between China and Pacific island countries. China stands ready to continue such win-win cooperation on the basis of mutual respect and equality to help island countries grow their economy and improve people's lives. China and the FSM will keep enriching the connotations of the China-FSM Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, to pursue the Belt and Road Initiative on the principle of achieving shared growth through discussion and collaboration, and to promote the building of the Community with a Shared Future for the Humanity and create a better future jointly together !



President Panuelo attends the Enthronement of His Majesty, the Emperor of Japan

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—After meeting with His Excellency Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, on October 21st, 2019, His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), continued to attend a series of meetings, symposia, and banquets on the margins of the Enthronement Ceremony of His Majesty, the Emperor, as well as attending the Enthronement Ceremony of His Majesty itself. While the details of each event varied, the core purpose on behalf of the FSM National Government was to show respect (e.g. at the Enthronement Ceremony) and to continue strengthening the “Kizuna,” or special bond, between the FSM and Japan.

On October 21st, 2019 President Panuelo attended a reception hosted by the Honorable Heita Kawakatsu, Governor of Shizuoka Prefecture. There, the President met with Members of the Japanese Parliament, as well as representatives of the private sector. The President addressed the several-hundred-large crowd, noting his gratitude for the close friendship between the people and Government of the FSM and the people and Government of Japan. The President invited the Governor and people of Shizuoka to visit the FSM, which was later formalized through a diplomatic note.

On October 22nd, 2019 President Panuelo attended the Enthronement of His Majesty, the Emperor. In the evening, the President attended a banquet in the Emperor's honor. Citizens of the FSM wishing to witness the ceremony themselves can do so here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z_Xka42e9jE&

On October 23rd, 2019 President Panuelo attended a luncheon hosted by the Japan-Pacific Island Countries Friendship League, with the Chairman, the Honorable Keiji Furuya, providing remarks on the close relationship between Japan and the Pacific. Chairman Furuya is also the Chairman of the Japan-FSM Parliamentary Friendship League.

In the evening on the same day, President Panuelo attended a banquet hosted by Prime Minister Abe.

The President will return to Japan in November in order to meet again with Prime Minister Abe, and to promote Micronesian Registration Advisors, Inc., which has developed a world-class domicile for East Asian companies doing business overseas through its FSM Corporate Registry Program and FSM Captive Insurance Domicile.



First Lady Patricia Edwin; His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the FSM; First Daughter Jenna Panuelo; His Excellency John Fritz, Ambassador of the FSM to Japan



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