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Kepirohi Falls facilities to get a face lift through Public-Private Sector Partnership

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

September 2, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—At 2:00 this afternoon the Pohnpei State Government entered into its second Public-Private Sector Partnership with the owners of the Kepirohi Falls landmark in Pohnpei.

The first Public-Private Sector Partnership was with the owners of the Lididuhniap Falls last July. Work has neared completion on that site and an inaugural tour will be offered to the Pacific Islands Forum leaders next Tuesday.

The core of the Kepirohi Falls agreement involve repair of the trails and provision of recreational facility in order to attract substantially more visitors, both local and international.

The heart of the matter is that access to both these falls, as well as most of the other 40 waterfalls in Pohnpei is dangerous or virtually impossible for the target tourist community of the 50+ demographic. It is this group that has the time and money to visit Pohnpei.

Once renovated, with greatly improved trails, stairways, picnic huts, observation deck/rest station, toilets and signs the expectation is that the visitor count will at least double during the first year, and double again in each of the years going forward.

In order to promote increased visitations the Pohnpei Office of Tourism will produce a special "Waterfall World" brochure and web campaign to broadcast to the world, the beauty and accessibility of these two most popular Pohnpei waterfalls.

The beneficiaries will be the entire population of Pohnpei in terms of increased employment due to additional expenditures of the visitors on tours, accommodation, and food & beverages. It is likely that the demand for Cultural Tourism, in terms of annual performances, will increase as well.

Also, the agreement signals the first time that the Government will expect a small promotional fee from each admission in order to cover the cost of an ongoing international and domestic campaign to promote these falls.



The waterfall owners agree to pay 10 percent of all revenues collected from visitors which will then be invested in the production of brochures and internet marketing campaigns. The State of Pohnpei, Office of Tourism and the falls owners also agree on the admission prices. In addition, the owners agree to maintain the trails,

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Drivers cautioned about potential traffic snarls anticipated during the Pacific Islands Forum

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

September 1, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—Two weeks ago, sirens blared and traffic was diverted as Pohnpei State and National police escorted 16 "state" cars to various locations on the island.

The motorcades coincided with the first ever visit of a Naval vessel from India to the FSM. The lack of information from officials regarding the visit from India and about the police escorted state cars caused many people to think that the motorcades were somehow related to the Indian visit. They

were not related.

The escorted vehicles were part of police preparations and training for the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) that will take place during the week of September 5. On the 7th of November, 16 heads of state from the Pacific Region will take part in the PIF that will be held at the College of Micronesia-China Friendship gym and at the FSM Congress chambers. The theme for this year's annual forum is "Small and Far: Challenges for Growth".

On the day following the meeting, leaders from countries that are not a part of the PIF

nations will hold a "post dialogue" meeting.

The State and National Police are charged with transporting and escorting the heads of state that will be visiting for the important annual meetings. The flow of traffic is apparently so important that classes in schools in the areas that might impact traffic have been cancelled for the duration of the meetings.

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State Supreme Court delivers “not guilty” verdicts for four accused of Human Trafficking

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

August 31, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—Four people accused of Human Trafficking along with a variety of other charges have been set free after the court declared them to be not guilty including one defendant who had entered into a plea agreement with the State.

The State filed multiple charges against the defendants on February 16 of this year including the charge of Human Trafficking. According to the court’s judgment, many of those charges were never addressed and were “left untouched by the Court”.

The State charges alleged that the defendants had required their under-aged family members to prostitute themselves at the Pohnpei port and also required them to bring the money from those activities back to the families.

Associate Justice Mayceleen JD Anson declared that the State had not presented enough admissible evidence to convict the defendants beyond a reasonable doubt.

In the case of the defendant who declared in a plea agreement with the State that she was guilty of “trafficking her sisters into prostitution”, Anson wrote that the court had rejected the plea agreement.

She ruled that the video evidence of an alleged victim against that defendant was presented with no sound and was narrated in court by a police officer as to what the testimony of the witness was. She ruled that testimony to be inadmissible hearsay. “The Court must find her not guilty of all charges,” her findings say.

Two of the defendants gave statements

to the police but those statements were acquired without giving the defendants their Miranda rights. Anson’s findings and her final judgment say that they defendants were brought into the police station without being told the reason why, and were given no opportunity to have legal counsel present during questioning. “The court must find their statements inadmissible”, Anson wrote.

Even without the problem of not having been “Mirandized”, Anson said that their statements would be inadmissible because they have a Constitutional right against self incrimination.

Another defendant had the Constitutional right to confront those witnesses against him. If those witnesses were unable or unwilling to testify in Court, that defendant would not have enjoyed the right to confront his accusers that he is guaranteed under the Constitution.

Anson did admit two testimonies against the accused but discounted them wholesale because the witnesses appear to have had a “falling out with the family”.

“The court questions the credibility of persons who are no longer part of the (accused and acquitted) family,” she wrote.

Anson ultimately could not find the defendants guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

A public defender rose and praised the Associate Justice for her “excellent decision”.

Anson replied, “It’s not an excellent decision”. She said that it was a difficult decision but under the law the court has to be held to a standard.

She rejected the prosecuting attorney’s request to reconsider the verdict which was based on what he said was earlier Court rulings that allowed for the admissibility of the evidence the State had presented.

The defendant who had a plea agreement with the State that kept her out of jail violated the conditions of her agreed upon bail. She could have been fined a maximum \$1500 fine and/or jail time. The prosecutor recommended that she should pay the maximum fine and if she couldn’t pay it in advance she should go to jail, which she avoided in the first place, unlike the other defendants.

Anson asked how much she could reasonably pay and then fined her \$100 for violation of her release conditions.

The Attorney General’s office says that there is nothing in the law that bars a prosecutor from appealing a court decision. It has asked for a transcript of the hearings and will decide whether or not to pursue an appeal on that basis.

(Editor’s note: We have purposely left the names of all parties in the case out of our reporting in order to protect the innocent, including those who were accused and later found to be not guilty.)

Update on the Micronesian Conservation Trust and our 2016-2018 new Strategic Objectives

The Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT) is a Micronesian nonprofit organization that builds partnerships, raises and manages funds, makes grants, influences policy, and provides conservation and financing expertise. We are working to positively impact conservation, climate resilience, and sustainable livelihood in the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, US Territory of Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. MCT plays a crucial role in connecting Micronesia to the broader conservation community, and to allocating key resources throughout the region.

We’ve done a lot of work over the past few years and in particular, and together with our numerous and capable partners across Micronesia, we have advanced crucial regional efforts in conservation in the areas of fundraising, new financing mechanisms, protected areas, shark sanctuaries, climate adaptation programs, internships and scholarships, capacity building and training, and improved science for decision making.

In order to ensure the growth of our current programs and to affect the improvement of services to partners in the future, the MCT Board of Trustees and staff reviewed our past performance, and surveyed partner needs and priorities to develop a new Strategic Action Plan. Our 2016-2018 strategic objective is to be a World-Class and Deeply Micronesian organization. In the coming three years, we will balance increasing our ability to lead regional conservation with strengthening key working partnerships at the local level. We will gather conservation insights and bring best practices to both the region and the international community. We will continue to develop deep and productive relationships throughout the political jurisdictions of Micronesia.

Delivering on this new strategy in the next three years will allow us to produce the following tangible outcomes:

- Grant-making tools and processes that are tested, effective, and efficient in delivering financial and technical support to local resources management entities, and that will guide international donors and technical organizations to support smart and positive

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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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- developments in the region
- Sustainable financing mechanisms in place for all Micronesian governments, made possible by local funding streams
- Improved monitoring and evaluation (M&E) program for MCT and its Micronesia Challenge partners that can accurately measure results and communicate those results to decision makers at the community, local, national, regional, and global levels
- A cadre of highly educated and trained emerging leaders placed in local conservation agencies and organizations around Micronesia, establishing and improving programs to take conservation to a higher level

We have begun work on accomplishing these ambitious goals. In March of 2015 MCT was accredited to serve as the FSM's National Implementing Entity for the Adaptation Fund and we have since begun the development of a project concept for a US\$1million project to support fisheries management, protected areas and community-based climate change adaptation projects. We are now also in the process of pursuing status as an Accredited Entity for the Green Climate Fund (GCF). This accreditation will allow us "direct access" to this new global source of funding for climate change mitigation and adaptation work. "Direct access" refers to the fact that the FSM, Palau and RMI would be able to access GCF funds directly through MCT rather than needing to go through larger, outside (and often United Nations agencies) organizations to manage the funds, thus increasing the

percentage of these funds that flow directly to Micronesia and increasing the timeliness and efficiency of their distribution to projects on the ground.

We are also working in partnership with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and with the Governments of Palau, FSM and RMI on a new initiative to explore potential "Nature for Debt Swaps" for the three countries, looking mainly at their Telecommunications debts to the USDA-Rural Development. The three governments have shown interest in pursuing this potential program to support further conservation work in the three countries. The Palau National Congress has adopted a resolution calling on the Palau President to work with MCT and TNC to explore the program. Similar resolutions have been drafted and provided to the FSM National Congress and the RMI Parliament for their consideration and adoption. Setting up a program of this nature could take a long time and considerable resources to complete. We are looking forward to the opportunity to work with these three governments in creative ways to finance important environmental conservation project in light of the decreasing funding these governments plan to receive under the Compacts of Free Association.

In addition to this, MCT is proud to introduce a new scholarship program to promote greater achievement in science education for emerging Micronesian leaders. Natural resource management agencies and non-governmental organizations need even more visionary and capable staff than already exists. To address this capacity gap, the Bill Raynor Micronesia Challenge Scholarship program will support emerging leaders to earn graduate

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U.S. Government Awards New Grant to Promote Climate Resilience in Micronesia

Embassy of the United States of America Kolonia

Weno, Chuuk – The U.S. Government, through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), launched a new project that will reduce the vulnerabilities of communities in Micronesia to impacts of climate change. Through its Pacific-American Climate Fund (PACAM), USAID awarded a total of US\$244,315 grant to the Chuuk Women's Council (CWC).

CWC will implement the project Climate Change Adaptation through Family, Gardens, Food, and Health that will strengthen the knowledge and capacity of families and school communities to grow nutritious food. The project will support the development of climate resilient community nurseries as well as home and school gardens, building on traditional gardening and food production knowledge, and developing school curricula in support of the home and school gardens.

U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM) Joanne Cummings, who led the launch of the project together with Honorable Wesley Simina, Speaker, FSM Congress, reaffirmed the American people's commitment to the well-being of the people of the Pacific Islands. "President Obama has called this century the Pacific Century, and under his

leadership the United States is building on its long relationship with the region," DCM Joanne Cummings said. She added, "We look forward to working with our partners in addressing the threats of climate change and ensuring a climate resilient future for Pacific Island communities."

CWC is a non-profit organization based in Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia, that implements comprehensive programs which enhance the well-being of women and their families in Chuuk State.

USAID, through PACAM, is partnering with 12 Pacific Island countries to reduce long-term vulnerabilities associated with climate change. PACAM awards grants to civil society organizations in support of climate change adaptation measures which are mutually beneficial to both direct beneficiaries and the environment, such as livelihoods enhancement, improved health, food security, disaster risk reduction, and sustainable natural resources management.



FSM poised to ratify the Convention on the Rights for Persons with Disability

With the September Regular Session of Congress approaching this month, the FSM National Government is preparing itself to make good on its intentions to ratify the Convention of the Rights for Persons with Disability (CRPD) and begin the process of implementation. FSM took an important first step towards ratifying the Convention

nearly five years ago, in September 2011. Then FSM President, H.E. Emmanuel A. Mori, signed the CRPD at the 66th UN General Assembly in New York, thereby indicating FSM's intention to ratify in the near future. Two months following signing, the 17th FSM Congress sought to approve ratification by introducing a resolution on 19 November 2011, in accordance with Section 4 of Article IX of the FSM Constitution. But instead of going through the ratification and making this a "top down" approach to implementing the convention, Congress resolved to postpone this decision until all four states had been consulted. That process was lengthy as each state handles these decisions in their own time and according to state priorities. The outcome of the consultations, which took four and a half years, led to each state adopting a resolution for FSM to ratify the CRPD.

On 30 April 2015, the 11th Kosrae State Legislature, First Special Session, adopted a resolution formally expressing support for CRPD ratification. The state recognized the "need to improve the rights, services, and treatment programs to facilitate an

inclusive and barrier-free society of disabled persons in the FSM," and the "obligations of our nation and our state to provide free access and special services to persons with disabilities in public and private areas."

A resolution to support CRPD ratification was also adopted by the 13th Chuuk State Legislature, First Regular Session, on 30 April 2015. The state acknowledged the efforts of other countries to uphold the dignity, worth, equality and inalienable rights of persons with disabilities and the need to establish state laws for their protection.

On 20 May 2015, the 9th Legislature of the State of Yap, First Regular Session, expressed unequivocal support for ratification and urged Congress to fulfill "deep and abiding responsibilities and moral obligations in addressing and meeting the needs of our disabled persons through accomplishing the objectives set forth in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and through our own careful initiatives as citizens of the FSM."

On 18 March 2016, the 9th Pohnpei State Legislature, First Special Session, expressed its "utmost support" for ratification, acknowledging the "great need to improve rights, services and treatment programs

to promote and facilitate an inclusive and barrier-free society for persons with disabilities here in the FSM."

The FSM Department of Health and Human Services has drafted a resolution for FSM President Christian to transmit to Congress that would seek their ratification of the treaty. The resolution is currently with the FSM Attorney General's office and should be sent to the President's office for review and recommendations before the September session of Congress according to FSM Attorney General Joses Gallen. The timing could be better as FSM has just had its consultations with the United Nations on the new Sustainable Development Goals whose theme is "Leave No One Behind."

By ratifying the Convention, FSM will be assuming the legal obligation to work steadily towards implementing its provisions. Only certain civil and political rights will need to be enforced immediately in accordance with international law. These rights include the right to life; liberty and security of the person; freedom from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse; and freedom of expression and opinion. Other general



Mr. Nelbert Perez, President of the Board for the Pohnpei Consumer Organization (Pohnpei's disability organization) and the President of the FSM National Disabled Persons Organization, has been the strongest advocate for the passing of this convention and has worked tirelessly for the rights of persons with disability

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FSM Developing Fisheries Investment Policy

NORMA

The FSM will soon be developing a Fisheries Investment Policy which is meant to help maximize revenue from tuna resources and to support economic development. The development of the Fisheries Investment Policy is a follow on to discussions during the recent FSM National Fisheries Seminar held in May 2016. The Seminar was co-hosted by the FSM Department of Resources & Development and the National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (NORMA), supported by the Forum Fisheries Agency and funded by the World Bank Pacific Regional Oceanscape Project (WB-PROP). Consistent with objectives of the seminar, deliberations included investment opportunities and constraints to development as well as the alignment of common state and national goals into one coherent policy. Other emerging themes of the seminar such as the importance of food security and preservation of the marine ecosystem will help guide the development of the policy.

The Fisheries Investment Policy would be designed to support an investment friendly climate, fostering appropriate multi-sectoral linkages and enhancing regional and international relations. The FSM's stable government, use of US currency, geographical location central to rich fishing grounds and proximity to Asian markets allow some of the many added advantages for investment of its 50-250,000 mt annual tuna harvest. A number of developing countries and particularly Small Island Developing States (SIDS) have designed investment policies for their natural resources, many of which include incentives such as capacity building, job creation, economic security, labor mobility, and utilities/infrastructure development. The same is being proposed for the FSM, with a whole of government approach being employed in order to ensure wide input from the national as well as

...MCT

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degrees while receiving close support, guidance and mentorship from key entities and individuals within the Micronesia Challenge partnership. To launch this scholarship program MCT will award scholarships to two students, link them with appropriate mentors, and provide support throughout.

Through these new initiatives, MCT hopes to continue improving our delivery of resources to Micronesian conservation management work and expand our ability to assist communities and governments. Stay tuned for more updates from MCT and reach out to us through our website: <http://www.ourmicronesia.org/> or through social media for more information on our grants and programs. (<https://www.facebook.com/OurMicronesia/>) (@ourmicroneia)

state governments and with public oversight into fisheries investment proposals.

NORMA Executive Director has noted that the ultimate aim of the Fisheries Investment Policy is to explore avenues that allow fisheries development to be led by the private sector and the investment climate to be more conducive for the economy to thrive. "In providing for the maximum level of benefit to the nation," notes Pangelinan, "we also must ensure that our goals for a Fisheries Investment Policy are also consistent with the objectives and principles of conservation, management and sustainable use of fishery resources."

In moving forward, the recently held 9th National Trade Facilitation Committee Meeting, chaired by Vice President Yosiwo George, endorsed the establishment of a Task Force to commence discussions with potential investors. Further consultations with the FSM States will take place before the end of the year to review the draft Fisheries Investment Policy before it is submitted to Congress by President Christian's Administration.

Amplifying Voices of Women and Youth in Pohnpei

Micronesian Productions recently received a grant from the Government of Canada under the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives grant scheme. Under this project, Micronesian Productions will hold monthly leadership meetings with the Pohnpei Women's Council and the Pohnpei State Youth Organization to plan activities and events over an 8 month period to give them a chance to have their voices heard more in the public media. Activities will center around monthly rallies that will rotate around the island of Pohnpei. These rallies will have competitions based on creating a poem, song, skit, essay, art or dance about the monthly theme. Presentations will be given by guest speakers on issues of Domestic Violence, Access to Health, Awareness on Gender Equality and Adult Education for women and Family Violence, Reproductive Health Issues (STDs, HIV and

teen pregnancy), Environment and Alcohol/Tobacco Abuse for youth. These events will give members of the communities that belong to these marginalized groups a chance to discuss issues important to them and a chance for leaders of these groups to get messages out to the general public as all events will be recorded and put on TV. We will also have these events played in full on the AM State radio station so everyone around the island has a chance to listen in.

In addition to the monthly festivals, we will work with leadership from each group to record monthly radio programs that address issues important to each group. We will contract with V6AH radio station to play these programs. We will also create a set of educational materials for these groups that highlight the issues important to them. This

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observation deck and the toilets, at their own expense.

Assuming success, the Public-Private Sector Partnership (PPP) concept will serve as an organizational development model for the renovation and promotion of the remaining falls going forward for real sustainability here.

"Again, we are excited about this concept, as it will help build the capacity of the rural community and the government, to continue to develop and maintain the other valuable tourist attractions in Pohnpei," said Marshall Ferrin, Aid Coordinator for the State. "We also expect such a project to attract attention from the other FSM states in this regard."

"Most importantly, we believe that introducing improved management of these two major natural attractions will empower the community, as well as the owners, to assume a much more advanced stewardship role than is currently in place," he said.

The Government is funding training for the owner representatives by the Entrepreneurship Center of the College of Micronesia to operate the fall attractions as small businesses. At present, both falls present a hazard to human life and have fallen in key places, into a state of neglect and disrepair. It is only through creating conditions that enable the community to appreciate the natural wonder of these falls that people will block any pollution via the runoff from piggeries that border the rivers that flow into some of the falls.

"We see that by improving the falls attraction we will create a community recreational experience that will ensure their conservation going forward", Ferrin said.

Opinion Editorial

The Pohnpei HPO Needs Your Help!

As reported in K-Press, in July, Nan Madol was listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and placed on the List of World Heritage Sites in Danger. This is wonderful news, and has taken years of hard work on behalf of FSM's Office of National Archives, Culture, and Historic Preservation, Pohnpei's Historic Preservation Office (HPO), and many other scholars and community members who are committed to protecting our cultural and historic sites. This prestigious listing will require years of hard work to ensure that our sacred site is properly maintained and protected for future generations to come.

Pohnpei's HPO will also play a role in the efforts to care for Nan Madol, however, our

Historic Preservation Offices (both Pohnpei and FSM) serve a purpose beyond this one site. Many people are unaware of what our HPOs do. In much of Micronesia, the HPOs were established by the U.S. National Park Service at the end of the Trust Territory administration with the cooperation of Micronesian leaders and cultural experts. These Offices were intended to help maintain, preserve and educate the public about the value and significance of our historic places, as well as our cultural heritage. Our HPOs were intended to protect and preserve our tangible (sites like Nan Madol, the Spanish Wall and the German Bell Tower) and intangible (songs, chants, oral histories) cultural heritage. The tangible and intangible go hand in hand; after all, what would Nan Madol mean to us today if not for the oral histories passed down for generations about these man-made basalt and coral islets? Therefore, historic preservation

requires the work of archaeologists, anthropologists, cultural experts, historians and more to properly document and preserve what our people deem to be worth "saving" and maintaining. It is challenging work.

Here at the Pohnpei HPO, "the struggle is real" in that we, like many other Pohnpei State Government agencies need financial assistance. We have big dreams for the future that include a museum to house some of Pohnpei's material culture and a small library. However, for the time being, we have more pressing needs. We are located in a historic building, which initially housed a Japanese elementary school then served as Pohnpei's hospital for many years. Shortly after we moved into the building in 2015, a typhoon blew the roof off and we have been rebuilding since. Our office needs a new computer, air conditioning, fresh paint and tile for our floors.

We are asking for your help. Donations are welcome! Feel free to call our office at 320-2652, or come by and visit.

**Kalahngan,
Emelinter Kihleng, PhD
Cultural Anthropologist
Pohnpei State HPO**



FSM Petroleum Corporation to announce unleaded fuel price cut

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

September 1, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—Vital, the FSM Petroleum Corporation is expected to announce an FSM wide reduction in the price it charges gas stations for unleaded gasoline tomorrow.

A Vital spokesperson said that the price

they will charge to gas station vendors will decrease by 15 cents.

“We are once again strongly urging all of our retail clients (gas stations) to pass along 100% of the reduction to consumers immediately,” the spokesperson said.

To facilitate that “immediate” reduction, Vital has said that the price reduction will

be applied to orders that have been placed before the price reduction they intend to announce tomorrow but that have not yet been delivered.

Not all gas station owners decide to pass the savings on their fuel purchases on to their customers. In Pohnpei there is at least a 10 cent per gallon disparity in prices for unleaded gasoline. Here, at least one

station is currently charging \$3.90 per gallon while others are still charging \$4 per gallon after Vital’s previous price reduction.

The Vital spokesperson said that a potential price reduction for diesel fuel will be reviewed next week.

Pohnpei State Executive Branch swearing in ceremony

August 31, 2016

Kolonia, Pohnpei - The Executive Branch of the Pohnpei State Government held a swear-in ceremony for the newly appointed members of the Governor’s Cabinet as well as board members for State agencies within the Government.

Among the Cabinet initiates were State Attorney General Mr. Dana W. Smith, Pohnpei Housing Authority Executive Director Mr. Paulino T. Lambert and Pohnpei State Election Commissioner Mr. Emilio Eperiam.

The newly appointed members of the Pohnpei Board of Education that were sworn-in today included Mr. Franky Edward, Mrs. Alice Ehmes, Mr. Joab Santos and Mr. Grilly Jack. Mrs. Lynn Naruhn, Mr. Bensile Enicar, Mr. Paul James, Ms. Brenda Hadley and Mr. Oltrick Santos were sworn in as members of the Board for the Pohnpei Public Broadcasting Corporation.

Mrs. Cynthia Ehmes was sworn in as the newest member of the Pohnpei Utilities Corporation Board of Directors.

Mr. Valentine Santiago was sworn in as the

last member of the Board of the Pohnpei Environmental Protection Agency.

In in congratulatory remarks, Governor Marcelo K. Peterson urged all those who were sworn into uphold their oaths of office to the highest standard. He stressed the idea that all positions in an organization or office hold extreme importance and responsibility. He also gave a special welcome to Attorney General Dana Smith stating that “monumental change is possible if we work together”.

After the Governor’s remarks, all the sworn-in members received Certificates of Appreciation from the Government for their willingness to serve the people in their appointed offices and capacities.

Mr. Eperiam and Mr. Santiago both volunteered to convey their appreciation on behalf of all the newly sworn-in members of Cabinet and Boards. Mr. Eperiam asked for support and cooperation from all those present to ensure successful and productive results.



...PIF Traffic

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If the two day exercise of two weeks ago is any indication, Pohnpei drivers won’t know exactly what to do when faced with an oncoming convoy of high level leaders in large black cars accompanied by a large number of police vehicles.

Don’t feel too badly. We weren’t able to find any answers either, but do be careful.

We sought police advice on what drivers should expect during the PIF but in both the National and State police departments, the authority to answer questions on the matter was placed in a single hand for each department. Only one of those police sources responded to our requests for an interview on what to expect but then missed the appointment. The other never responded at all despite repeated messages for over a week.

Without a definitive answer from police about what drivers should expect we can only say that drivers should be attentive during the PIF and listen for sirens or honking horns that might indicate an approaching motorcade. Give right of way by pulling to the side of the road as soon as you hear them and let the motorcade pass.

Keep your stereo speakers down so that you can hear police sirens and don’t assume the motorcade will be driving in their correct lane. That seems like common sense but it might not be for some motorists in Pohnpei who do not drive defensively with an ear and an eye out for possibly life endangering impediments.

Drivers may encounter motorcades at any point during the Pacific Islands Forum and no information has been forthcoming about whether or not there will be any road closures.

The PIF organizing committee initially projected 500-600 visitors to Pohnpei. They currently project only 250-300 visitors, less than 1 percent of Pohnpei’s population.

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Opinion Editorial

Partnership for the Environmental Protection of the Pacific

By Marstella Jack

Delegates to the Pacific Islands Forum and Post-Forum Dialogue flying into Pohnpei might notice the great hulking wreck that was once the PING DA 7, aground for nearly two years now atop Pohnpei's circular fringing reef. This ship is an environmental time-bomb and the subject of an ongoing emergency in the FSM. The people of Micronesia want it removed, but whose responsibility is it?

However sympathetic, what development partner is willing to shoulder such a problem and incur such a liability, real or implied? It's a conundrum, but one that might finally have a solution. That possible solution is PEPP.

Partnership for the Environmental Protection of the Pacific, or PEPP, is a new Micronesia-based not-for-profit corporation. Its mission is to help the people of the Pacific address crosscutting environmental issues critical to our sustainable economic development and physical well-being. Working directly with Pacific Islanders, our governments,

intergovernmental organizations, nongovernmental organizations, international financial institutions, development partners, private industry, and charitable donors, PEPP seeks to increase awareness of environmental management issues confronting Pacific Island nations and bridge gaps in local capacity, in order to help address the region's most pressing environmental issues.

Our Board of Directors, the "PEPP Squad," consists of gifted men and women who know the Pacific well and generously serve pro bono. Their expertise is manifested in the new and innovative ways they seek to address the vulnerabilities of Smaller Island States, often without the need for additional public funding. With buy-in from state and national governments, and the support of our international development partners, these can be game-changing strategies to effectively address the challenges of Pacific island nations in ways that support regional integration, strengthen local capacity, and promote environmental sustainability.

PEPP's innovative and collaborative approach to problem-solving can be seen in its inaugural project, designed to address the long-term electrical power needs of Pohnpei.

With its electricity rate among the highest in the world, most of its people suffering from daily electrical power outages, an

emergency declaration by the governor, and a tangle of lawsuits and recriminations, Pohnpei's energy needs were grossly unmet. Without fanfare, PEPP launched a whirlwind of consultations with stakeholders who swiftly coalesced around our plan to construct a solar power farm at Pohnlangas that would slash electricity costs to Pohnpei consumers, reduce Pohnpei's carbon footprint significantly, and safeguard Pohnpei's energy needs for many years to come. PEPP's ambitious 5MW plan paved the way for today's more modest 600KW solar power plant in Pohnlangas, Madolenihmw, funded by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) through its Pacific Partnership Program. The solar project in Pohnlangas proves that PEPP has the imagination to visualize the needs of Pacific Island societies and the technological and broad social understanding to bring this vision to reality.

PEPP is vitally concerned with the health and wellness of Pacific Islanders. We draw attention to the health disparities of Pacific Islanders relative to other ethnic groups, including higher cancer and infant mortality, greater prevalence of diabetes and Hepatitis B, and a high incidence of HIV/AIDS. PEPP emphasizes holistic and natural approaches to preventing and treating depression and mental illness, as well as non-communicable disease, through lifestyle and dietary

changes, nutritional counseling, and culinary health education.

PEPP's proposed new program, titled "UrCare," would dramatically broaden the availability of health care to Micronesians. Micronesia's sole health insurance provider, MiCare, presently protects only about 20 percent of Micronesia's population. In coordination with MiCare, UrCare would provide coverage to the rest—principally subsistence farmers and fishermen and their families—through guaranteed payments replenished by membership premiums and donations.

UrCare's proposed regional diagnostic facilities would dramatically reduce the number of expensive off-island referrals. This expanded coverage and on-island diagnostic treatment would enable UrCare to improve health, save lives, and lessen the strain of Micronesian indigents on the social safety net in U.S. states and territories.

Another innovative PEPP concept is a new public-private initiative to strengthen collective maritime security in the Pacific. It's called NAVATARS, which stands for "Naval Auxiliary Transport, Asset Recovery, and Search." The heart of the NAVATARS concept of operations is the deployment of accredited vessels and other

See "PEPP" on page 12

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47th Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting 7th - 11th September 2016

This week the 47th Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting is taking place in the Federated States of Micronesia. The Pacific Islands Forum is the region's premier political and economic policy organisation. Founded in 1971, it comprises 16 independent and self-governing states: Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

Associate membership to the Forum is currently held by French Polynesia, New Caledonia and Tokelau. Forum Observer status is with Wallis and Futuna, the Commonwealth, the United Nations, the Asia Development Bank, the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, the World Bank, the African Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, and the International Organisation for Migration. Timor Leste is a Special Observer.

The Forum's Vision is for a Pacific region of peace, harmony, security, social inclusion and prosperity, so that all Pacific people can lead free, healthy, and productive lives.

The Pacific Islands Forum works to achieve this by fostering cooperation between governments, collaboration with international agencies, and by representing the interests of its members.

Since 1989, the Forum has held Post-Forum Dialogues with key Dialogue Partners at Ministerial level. There are currently 17 partners: Canada, People's Republic of China, Cuba, European Union, France, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Spain, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom and the United States.

The work of the Forum is guided by the Framework for Pacific Regionalism which was endorsed by Leaders in July 2014. It sets out the strategic vision, values, objectives and approaches to achieve deeper regionalism in the Pacific. Pacific regionalism is recognised by leaders as:

The expression of a common sense of identity and purpose, leading progressively to the sharing of institutions, resources, and markets, with the purpose of complimenting national efforts, overcoming common constraints, and embracing sustainable and

inclusive development within Pacific countries and territories and for the Pacific region as a whole.

The Framework for Pacific Regionalism supports political conversations and initiatives that address key strategic issues. All Pacific people have an important role to play in regionalism, and to support this principle the Framework articulates a regional public policy process that is intended to generate initiatives that foster deeper regionalism. The Framework also encourages prioritisation of the Forum Leaders agenda to ensure that Leaders have the time and space to drive these initiatives forward.

The annual Forum meetings are chaired by the Head of Government of the Host Country, who remains as the Forum Chair until the next meeting. Decisions made by Leaders are reached by consensus and are outlined in a Forum Communique, from which policies are developed and implemented.

The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat is mandated to coordinate the implementation of Forum Leader's decisions. The Secretariat is based in Suva, Fiji, and is led by the Secretary General (currently Dame Meg Taylor of Papua New Guinea) who is directly responsible to the Forum Leaders. The Forum Officials' Committee (made up of representatives from all Forum Governments) is the governing body for the Secretariat and has oversight of its activities. The Secretariat is funded by contributions from member governments and donors.

The Secretary General of the Forum Secretariat is permanent Chair of the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP). CROP functions as a coordination mechanism between the heads of the regional organisations in the Pacific, and as a high-level advisory body, to provide technical expertise and policy advice at national, regional and international level. The nine members of CROP are:

- Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA)
- Pacific Islands Development Programme (PIDP)
- Pacific Community (SPC)
- Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS)
- Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)
- South Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO)
- University of the South Pacific (USP)
- Pacific Power Association (PPA)
- Pacific Aviation Safety Office (PASO)

Contact Us

The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat: Private Mail Bag, Suva, Fiji
Telephone: (+679) 3312 600 | Email: info@forumsec.org | Website: www.forumsec.org
Twitter: @ForumSEC | Facebook: @Pacific.Islands.Forum.Secretariat

FORUM ISLAND COUNTRIES

AUSTRALIA

FLAG



FORUM MEMBERSHIP

1971

INDEPENDENCE DAY

1 January 1901 / 26 January every year

CAPITAL

Canberra

AREA

7.6 million sq km

EEZ

8.6 million sq km

POPULATION

23.94 million estimated (Dec 2015)

LANGUAGE

English

CURRENCY

Australian dollar

ECONOMY

Agriculture, manufacturing, mining, livestock farming and tourism

STATUS

Constitutional monarchy under HM Queen Elizabeth II

HEAD OF STATE

Governor-General the Hon Sir Peter Cosgrove

HEAD OF GOVERNMENT

Prime Minister The Hon Malcom Turnbull MP

WEBSITE

www.australia.gov.au

COOK ISLANDS

FLAG



FORUM MEMBERSHIP

1971

INDEPENDENCE DAY

26 July, 1965

CAPITAL

Avarua, Rarotonga

AREA

240 sq km

EEZ

1.8 million sq km

POPULATION

13,100 (2015) - resident

LANGUAGE

Cook Islands Maori, English

CURRENCY

New Zealand dollar

ECONOMY

Tourism, Pearl Industry, Fishing

STATUS

Parliamentary Democracy - Free Association with New Zealand

HEAD OF STATE

HM Queen Elizabeth II represented by Queen's Representative HE Tom John Marsters

HEAD OF GOVERNMENT

Prime Minister The Hon Henry Puna

WEBSITE

www.cook-islands.gov.ck

FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

FLAG



FORUM MEMBERSHIP

1987

INDEPENDENCE DAY

3 November, 1986

CAPITAL

Palikir, Pohnpei

AREA

702 sq km

EEZ

2.9 million sq km

POPULATION

103,000 (2015)

LANGUAGE

English, Micronesian languages

CURRENCY

United States dollar

ECONOMY

Agriculture, tourism, fishing, services

STATUS

Constitutional Confederation in free association with the USA

HEAD OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT

President HE Peter M. Christian

WEBSITE

www.fsmgov.org/; www.fsmpio.fm/

FIJI

FLAG



FORUM MEMBERSHIP

1971

INDEPENDENCE DAY

10 October, 1970

CAPITAL

Suva

AREA

18.3 thousand sq km

EEZ

1.26 million sq km

POPULATION

890,000 (2015)

LANGUAGE

English, Fijian, Hindi

CURRENCY

Fijian dollar

ECONOMY

Agriculture, manufacturing, mining, livestock farming, tourism, fishing, sugar, construction.

STATUS

Parliamentary representative democratic republic.

HEAD OF STATE

President Major General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote

HEAD OF GOVERNMENT

Prime Minister Rear Admiral (Retired) The Hon Voreqe Bainimarama

WEBSITE

www.fiji.gov.fj

KIRIBATI

FLAG



FORUM MEMBERSHIP

1977

INDEPENDENCE DAY

12 July 1979

CAPITAL

Tarawa

AREA

810 sq km

EEZ

3.6 million sq km

POPULATION

114,000 (2015)

LANGUAGE

English, Kiribati

CURRENCY

Australian dollar

ECONOMY

Agriculture, Fisheries

STATUS

Republic with an executive president

HEAD OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT

President HE Taneti Maamau

WEBSITE

www.president.gov.ki/web-portal/

NAURU

FLAG



FORUM MEMBERSHIP

1971

INDEPENDENCE DAY

31 January 1968

CAPITAL

Yaren

AREA

21 sq km

EEZ

320,000 sq km

POPULATION

10,800 (2015)

LANGUAGE

English, Nauruan

CURRENCY

Australian dollar

ECONOMY

Phosphate mining, fishing, revenue from offshore processing centre and service providers

STATUS

Republic with an Executive President

HEAD OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT

President HE Baron Divavesi Waqa

WEBSITE

www.naurugov.nr

NEW ZEALAND

FLAG



FORUM MEMBERSHIP

1971

INDEPENDENCE DAY

6 February

CAPITAL

Wellington

AREA

271 thousand sq km

EEZ

2.2 million sq km

POPULATION

4.7 million (2015)

LANGUAGE

English, Maori

CURRENCY

New Zealand dollar

ECONOMY

Agriculture, livestock farming, manufacturing, services and tourism

STATUS

Constitutional monarchy under HM Queen Elizabeth II

HEAD OF STATE

HM Queen Elizabeth II represented by Governor-General HE Lt Gen The Right Hon Sir Jerry Mateparae

HEAD OF GOVERNMENT

Prime Minister The Rt Hon John Key

WEBSITE

www.beehive.govt.nz

NIUE

FLAG



FORUM MEMBERSHIP

1975

INDEPENDENCE DAY

19 October 1974

CAPITAL

Alofi

AREA

260 sq km

EEZ

390,000 sq km

POPULATION

1470 (2015)

LANGUAGE

English, Niuean

CURRENCY

New Zealand Dollar

ECONOMY

Subsistence agriculture, fishing, tourism

STATUS

Full self government in free association with New Zealand

HEAD OF STATE

HM Queen Elizabeth II represented by Governor-General of NZ - HE Lt Gen The Right Hon Sir Jerry Mateparae

HEAD OF GOVERNMENT

Premier The Hon Toke Talagi

WEBSITE

<http://www.gov.nu/>

PALAU

FLAG



FORUM MEMBERSHIP

1995
INDEPENDENCE DAY
 1 October 1994
CAPITAL
 Melekeok, Babeldoab
AREA
 460 sq km
EEZ
 600,900 sq km
POPULATION
 18,000 (2015)
LANGUAGE
 English, Palauan
CURRENCY
 United States Dollar
ECONOMY
 Tourism, services, subsistence agriculture, fisheries
STATUS
 Constitutional government in free association with the US
HEAD OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT
 President HE Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr
WEBSITE
www.palau.gov.org

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

FLAG



FORUM MEMBERSHIP

1974
INDEPENDENCE DAY
 16 September 1975
CAPITAL
 Port Moresby
AREA
 463 thousand sq km
EEZ
 3.1 million sq km
POPULATION
 7.7 million (2015)
LANGUAGE
 English. Tok Pisin, Hiri Motu, local languages
CURRENCY
 Kina
ECONOMY
 Agriculture, timber, mining, gold, copper, silver) and natural gas
STATUS
 Constitutional Monarchy
HEAD OF STATE
 HM Queen Elizabeth II represented by Governor-General HE Michael Ogio
HEAD OF GOVERNMENT
 Prime Minister Hon. Peter O'Neill
WEBSITE
www.parliament.gov.pg; www.pm.gov.pg

REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

FLAG



FORUM MEMBERSHIP

1987
INDEPENDENCE DAY
 21 October 1986
CAPITAL
 Majuro
AREA
 180 sq km
EEZ
 2.1 million sq km
POPULATION
 55,000 (2015)
LANGUAGE
 English, Marshallese
CURRENCY
 United States Dollar
ECONOMY
 Tourism, subsistence agriculture, fisheries
STATUS
 Constitutional government in free association with the US.
HEAD OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT
 President HE Hilda C. Heine
WEBSITE
www.rmi-op.net

SAMOA

FLAG



FORUM MEMBERSHIP

1971
INDEPENDENCE DAY
 1 January 1962
CAPITAL
 Apia
AREA
 2,830 sq km
EEZ
 120,000 sq km
POPULATION
 193,000 (2015)
LANGUAGE
 English, Samoan
CURRENCY
 Tala
ECONOMY
 Agriculture, fisheries, tourism
STATUS
 Republic
HEAD OF STATE
 HH Tui Atua Tupua Tamasese Efi
HEAD OF GOVERNMENT
 Prime Minister The Hon Tuila'epa
 Lupesoliai Neioti Aiono Sailele Malielegaoi
WEBSITE
www.samoagovt.ws

SOLOMON ISLANDS

FLAG



FORUM MEMBERSHIP

1978
INDEPENDENCE DAY
 7 July 1978
CAPITAL
 Honiara
AREA
 27.9 thousand sq km
EEZ
 1.6 million sq km
POPULATION
 588,000 (2015)
LANGUAGE
 English, Pijin, local languages
CURRENCY
 Solomon Islands dollar
ECONOMY
 Agriculture, fisheries and forestry
STATUS
 Constitutional monarchy under HM Queen Elizabeth II
HEAD OF STATE
 HM Queen Elizabeth II represented by Governor-General HE Sir Frank Ofagioro Kabui
HEAD OF GOVERNMENT
 Prime Minister The Hon Manasseh Sogavare
WEBSITE
www.parliament.gov.sb

TONGA

FLAG



FORUM MEMBERSHIP

1971
INDEPENDENCE DAY
 4 June 1970
CAPITAL
 Nuku'alofa
AREA
 720 sq km
EEZ
 700,000 sq km
POPULATION
 104,000 (2015)
LANGUAGE
 English, Tongan
CURRENCY
 Pa'anga or Tongan dollar
ECONOMY
 Agriculture, fisheries and tourism
STATUS
 National monarchy
HEAD OF STATE
 HM King Tupou VI
HEAD OF GOVERNMENT
 Prime Minister Hon Samuela 'Akilisi Pohiva
WEBSITE
www.mic.gov.to

TUVALU

FLAG



FORUM MEMBERSHIP

1978
INDEPENDENCE DAY
 1 Oct 1978
CAPITAL
 Funafuti
AREA
 30 sq km
EEZ
 757,000 sq km
POPULATION
 11,000 (2015)
LANGUAGE
 English, Tuvaluan
CURRENCY
 Australian dollar
ECONOMY
 Agriculture and fisheries
STATUS
 Constitutional monarchy under HM Queen Elizabeth II
HEAD OF STATE
 HM Queen Elizabeth II represented by the Governor-General The Hon Sir Iakoba Taalaofa Itoalei
HEAD OF GOVERNMENT
 Prime Minister The Hon Enele Sopoaga
WEBSITE
www.tuvaluislands.com

VANUATU

FLAG



FORUM MEMBERSHIP

1980
INDEPENDENCE DAY
 30 July 1980
CAPITAL
 Port Villa
AREA
 12.2 thousand sq km
EEZ
 680,000 sq km
POPULATION
 269,000 (2015)
LANGUAGE
 Bislama, English, French, local languages
CURRENCY
 Vatu
ECONOMY
 Agriculture, fisheries, tourism and livestock farming
STATUS
 Republic
HEAD OF STATE
 President HE Womtelo Reverend Baldwin Lonsdale
HEAD OF GOVERNMENT
 Prime Minister The Hon Charlot Salwai Tabimasmass
WEBSITE
www.governmentofvanuatu.gov.vu



PACIFIC ISLANDS
FORUM SECRETARIAT

The Framework for Pacific Regionalism

In 2014, Leaders of the Pacific Islands Forum endorsed a Pacific Vision that was for a region of peace, harmony, security, social inclusion, and prosperity, so that all Pacific people can lead free, healthy, and productive lives.

The Framework for Pacific Regionalism represents their long term commitment to deeper regionalism as a means to achieving this vision. Four principal objectives underpin this commitment: sustainable development, economic growth, strengthened systems, and security for all.

The Framework sets out a number of ways in which ambitious and transformative initiatives best addressed through a regional approach can be identified. Governments of the Pacific, through existing Ministerial and Officials' driven processes are one important avenue. Another is the regional public policy consultation process. Through these mechanisms the Framework provides a political platform that enables Forum Leaders to assert their collective sovereignty over the Pacific Vision into the future.

Regionalism can be expressed in a number of ways:

- **Regional Cooperation** consists of regional agreements between national governments, where implementation is left at the national level. This has been the primary vehicle for regionalism in the Pacific since the 1960s.
- In some instances cooperation has led to **Regional Delivery and Regional Service Provision** such as the University of the South Pacific and its regional delivery of tertiary education.
- **Economic and Political Integration** represent two forms of deeper regionalism that can lead to shared sovereignty, shared political and legal institutions, and increased flows of people, goods, and capital. PACER Plus represents the region's efforts to achieve an agreement towards greater economic integration, while tangible efforts towards greater political integration are still to be attained.

Deeper regionalism requires coherence and conformity across regional stakeholders. The Framework prioritises the regional political agenda, and in doing so provides all stakeholders the opportunity to align their strategic direction and resources behind it.

Implementation of effective forms of regional cooperation and integration is underpinned by emphases on:

- Greater **political oversight** and discussion by Forum Leaders around key issues such as political settlements, pooled resources and sovereignty, and what is to be gained and forfeited for the greater regional good.
- Ensuring focused **political discussion** takes place that considers only issues best serviced through a form of regionalism. This does not downplay the importance of other issues that are not considered

through the processes articulated in the Framework, but recognises that they may be best addressed at the national level or through a multi-country approach.

- Promoting a more **inclusive approach to regional public policy development**. The regional public submissions process set out in the Framework enables coherent and meaningful public engagement in regionalism. In addition, through mechanisms like the Private Sector Roundtable, and the Civil Society – Forum Troika Dialogue, Pacific communities are connected with regional decision makers.

Processes to inform Forum Leaders Priorities for Regionalism



Continuum of stages to deeper regionalism



The Pacific Islands Forum is the political grouping of the 16 independent and self-governing states in the Pacific re-gion. Its Secretariat (PIFS), based in Suva, Fiji, delivers on the decisions made at the annual Forum Leaders meetings and high level ministerial meetings.

Huge fish swim in for the Matson fishing tournament

By *Bill Jaynes*

August 20, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—Lightning flashed and thunder rolled during the early morning hours of the Matson Fishing Tournament but for some competitors it was apparently perfect fishing weather.

No records were broken but some huge fish were landed, including Westcott Panuelo's 366.2 pound marlin. The fish was so big that it bent the "S hook" on the scale and dumped the marlin, beak first into the Mangrove Bay dock and then into the water. A new scale had to be brought in along with tall ladders in order to read the scale, and now there's a nice new hole in the Mangrove floating dock.

Westcott won the largest fish competition hands down. He walked away with the \$700 prize along with the monster marlin he had caught.

Alex Tretnoff also brought in a beautiful marlin that was 143 pounds and took home both the marlin and \$400 dollars in cash for the second prize.

Jeff Aingemea reeled in a HUGE yellow fin tuna. The 120.4 pound fish won him third place for biggest fish and a \$300 cash prize. He was fishing aboard the Mr. Tip Sea, the same boat on which Panuelo landed his huge marlin.

Marcela Hawley was fishing aboard "Salt Life" and grabbed a 92.4 pound Yellow Fin tuna for the \$200 fourth prize on the biggest fish category.

Several fishers boated big yellow fin tuna. During any other tournament, those big fish might have netted them a prize but not during this tournament.

Matson also awarded a \$100 prize for the biggest of each species of fish caught during the tournament.

Marcela Hawley won for her 14.8 pound Skip Jack tuna. Kimo Phillip won for his 31.5 pound Wahoo. Welber David won the prize for his 12.1 pound Barracuda, and Alex Tretnoff won that prize for his 15 pound Mahi Mahi.

Dane Nighswander, ever the gallant Junior Angler, won a \$50 prize in that category for his 12.3 pound Wahoo.

The tournament was sponsored by Matson and Amcres.



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Education Corner:

Richard Womack, Ed.D

...PEPP

Continued from page 6

Quick Summary

A year ago (August 2015), we began this Education Corner (EC) to report and explain some ways the Community could help the Pohnpei Department of Education (PDOE) improve our schools and our students' learning. EC began by trying to explain the FSM National Department of Education (NDOE) Accreditation System whereby every school, public or private; elementary and high schools are visited and inspected by outside teams. NDOE Accreditation has certain standards with which the NDOE teams measure and rate our schools. These teams look at the physical conditions of the school buildings; check that students all have books; see if students are attending school regularly; look at student achievement scores; and carefully check the official records kept by the school's principal as well as records at the PDOE Central Office. EC mentioned the importance of getting our children to school each day and on time. All of us-the Community- can help here being sure to remember it's clock time not Pohnpeian time. The importance of student attendance cannot be over stressed as you will see. It could mean more money for your school or it may mean less money for you school.

Next the EC attempted to explain the School Improvement Plan called the SIP. After accreditation each school must prepare a SIP. No SIP can be approved without community input. This is a must. Community members with high school and college degrees are welcome. Even more welcome are the parents that did not finish school for whatever reasons. If the Community wants community schools controlled by the Community-the SIP is the place for everyone. The SIP must show how anything not found to be "exceptional" will be improved and very specifically how the school will do that. Even "exceptional" schools must write out specific plans on just how the school will continue to be "exceptional". The school

principal must lead the SIP as that plan will direct the school's activities for the next school year (SY). If students are not coming regularly to school, the SIP must show how the school will improve the attendance rate. Then the attendance data leads us to graduation rates, dropout rates and the number and gender of the students involved. If buildings need repair, the SIP must spell out when and how they will be repaired. In fact, for building, the principal and the school must write individual School Maintenance Plans. The SIP is the single most important document in the educational Community.

Furthermore EC wrote about the Joint Economic Management Committee or JEMCO. While the JEMCO is interested in improving FSM and Pohnpei education, they are concerned that U S tax money is spent in an efficient and effective manner. Presently, and until 2023, almost all funding for education comes from the U S. What gets our attention is that JEMCO may withhold funding whenever we are not improving, or when JEMCO feels that U S taxes are not spent wisely.

JEMCO requires the FSM Accreditation Standards to be met and JEMCO also has 21 Performance Indicators. "Performance indicator" refers to the means by which an objective can be judged to have been achieved or not achieved. Indicators are therefore tied to FSM/PDOE goals and objectives and serve simply as 'yardsticks' by which to measure the degree of success in goal achievement. Performance indicators are reported with mathematics and not words. They speak about passing rates and graduation rates and student passing rates on FSM standardized tests. These Indicators are JEMCO's tools and they are measured by rates and percentages.

The SIP must take into account both the FSM Accreditation and JEMCO Performance

Indicators. If a school's graduation rate was 82% the SIP must state with numbers just how much will be improved for next SY. Should the school go for 83% next year or 84%? The SIP reads pages and pages of data and specific plans in order to improve the numbers. Hundreds of man hours are used studying the schools' data along with the recommendations from FSM Accreditation, trying to judge just how much improvement can be made and what it will require to reach that next level.

Finally, most of the EC columns have been about our Pohnpei teachers as professionals. Specifically, teachers tested themselves to discover weak areas in the sciences and social studies. In some cases weaknesses pop up because the teacher has not kept current with new findings. In other cases a teacher may not have had sufficient training in a subject.

As in all professions, the PDOE elementary teacher needs, and has asked for, on-going teacher training.

Finally readers, EC did the above summary so that we can change our format. While FSM Accreditation, SIPs and JEMCO are important, a year is quite enough. For the upcoming editions EC will use some stories for our readers. In teacher education we refer to these stories as "Case Studies". Case Studies are real life teaching/learning situations meant for critical thinking. The Case Studies will feature a beginning teacher named Navarro Navarro as he struggles to learn his new profession. Sometimes he makes mistakes, but upon realizing mistakes he corrects them. Navarro is far from perfect and he knows it. But you will find Navarro loves his students and is always trying to improve.

We hope you will like the new approach. Womackandassociates765@gmail.com

assets as an auxiliary "virtual navy," or Micronesian Coast Guard, in support of subscribing Pacific Island governments. Building on the successes and experiences of Pacific Island governments and the U.S. Coast Guard in their joint "shiprider" naval patrols, NAVATARS vessels would embark host country law enforcement officers on patrols of their countries' Exclusive Economic Zones. NAVATARS would then assist these police in helping to curb the exploitation of Pacific EEZs by organized international criminal elements. With the consent of participating governments, NAVATARS' operations would span multiple EEZs, sometimes in the course of a single extended patrol. This tactic will defeat the current practice of poachers, which is to evade law enforcement routinely by slipping across contiguous EEZs.

NAVATARS would be self financed, funding its operations through subscriptions, grants, merchandising, and a percentage of all new proceeds it brings to subscribing governments. No governments want to accept the responsibility for the clean-up of environmental hazards like derelict vessels and unexploded ordnance. But all could contribute to those efforts, at arm's length, by funding PEPP to undertake the clean-up on their collective behalf.

PEPP is seeking new board members passionate about preserving the beauty, and confronting the challenges, of the Pacific. We also seek public and private development partners interested in real solutions.

Learn more about PEPP at www.pacificpartnership.org.

Mission Statement

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

Values:



The College of Micronesia-FSM seek to fill these positions.

Executive Director of Institutional Advancement and External Affairs Office

Reporting to the President and CEO, the Executive Director is the lead administrator providing leadership, strategic direction, and management for the college's operational fundraising program, alumni relations, communications and marketing, and foundation relations to support the College of Micronesia - FSM goals and mission. The Executive Director oversees and directs planning, implementation, coordination, and evaluation of institutional advancement services, programs, and relations to ensure strategic goals and mission are met. The Executive Director is a key contributor to policy formulation, strategic planning, budget development, and stakeholder management.

Position	Campus	Annual Salary
Custodian	Chuuk	\$5,045.00
Business Instructor	National	\$16,131.00--\$17, 819.00
Mathematics Instructor	National	\$16,131.00--\$17,819.00
Executive Director of Institutional Advancement and External Affairs Office	National	\$43, 550.00
Instructional Coordinator	Kosrae	\$17, 643.00-- \$19,880.00
Information Systems Specialist I	Pohnpei	\$8,846.00-\$9,968.00
Youth Extension Agent I	Chuuk	\$8,586-\$9,675.00
ESL/English Instructor	Pohnpei	\$16,131.00--\$17, 819.00
English Instructor	Chuuk	\$16,131.00--\$17, 819.00
Science Instructor	National	\$17,997.00- \$19,880.00
Natural Science Instructor	Kosrae	\$16,131.00--\$17, 819.00
Mathematics & Computer Instructor	Yap	\$16,131.00--\$17, 819.00

Serious inquiries can be made to the Human Resources Office at email address hro@comfsm.fm and telephone number (691) 320-2482 extension numbers 130, 131, 192 or visit us at www.comfsm.fm for application, details, and requirements.

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Vacancy Announcement: 2016/UNV01

NATIONAL UNV PUBLIC HEALTH SPECIALIST

UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji seeks to recruit a suitably qualified Federated States of Micronesian national for the position of **National UNV Public Health Specialist** for the **UNDP Global Fund Programme** to be based with the FSM Department of Health and Social Affairs, Palikir, Pohnpei, FSM.

Under the guidance and direct supervision of the Global Fund Regional Programme Manager and the Medical Director, National Communicable Diseases, FSM Department of Health and Social Affairs, the UN Volunteer in FSM is responsible for supporting the management of the UNDP Global Fund multi-country programme within the Programme Management Unit. This post is for FSM nationals only.

Summary Key Functions:

- Implementation of Global Fund Multi-country programme activities
- Effective management of Global Fund Multi-country programme and support to UN agencies health programme in FSM
- Creation of strategic partnerships and implementation of the resource mobilization strategy

Minimum Qualifications and Experience:

Bachelor's Degree or equivalent in Nursing or Public Health or other related field. At least 2 years of relevant experience at the national level in providing management support services, hands-on reporting or development projects. Experience in the usage of computers and office software packages, experience in handling of web based management systems.

Level: National UNV

Contract Type –UNV

Competencies required for the above position

- Integrity and professionalism: demonstrated expertise in area of specialty and ability to apply good judgment; high degree of autonomy, personal initiative and ability to take ownership; willingness to accept wide responsibilities and ability to work independently under established procedures in a politically sensitive environment, while exercising discretion, impartiality and neutrality; ability to manage information objectively, accurately and confidentially; responsive and client-oriented.
- Accountability: mature and responsible; ability to operate in compliance with organizational rules and regulations.

- Commitment to continuous learning: initiative and willingness to learn new skills and stay abreast of new developments in area of expertise; ability to adapt to changes in work environment.
- Planning and organizing: effective organizational and problem-solving skills and ability to manage a large volume of work in an efficient and timely manner; ability to establish priorities and to plan, coordinate and monitor (own) work; ability to work under pressure, with conflicting deadlines, and to handle multiple concurrent projects/activities.
- Teamwork and respect for diversity: ability to operate effectively across organizational boundaries; ability to establish and maintain effective partnerships and harmonious working

General Terms and Conditions of Employment: Various benefits including health & life insurances (health insurance for up to 3 dependents); Settling in Grant (if applicable); and annual/sick leave apply. Contract duration is 16 months initially with the possibility of an extension dependent on performance and availability of funds.

APPLICATIONS MUST include a **Results-Oriented Curriculum Vitae** with full contact details of three referees to be submitted by **Friday 23 September, 2016**. Candidates must submit their application and upload a Results Oriented CV electronically on <http://www.pacific.undp.org/content/pacific/en/home/operations/jobs.html> on the Asia and the Pacific link page or addressed under confidential cover to:

Vacancy – UNDP (Indicate Vacancy Title)

C/- Evelyn Adolph

UN Coordination Specialist

UN Joint Presence Initiative

FSM

Tel: (691)320-4192

Fax: (691)320-1276

<http://pacific.unfpa.org>

Incomplete applications will not be considered and **only candidates for whom there is further interest will be contacted.**

Additional information including the Post Profile, Results-Oriented Curriculum vitae format and P-11 form is available from the UNDP website: <http://www.pacific.undp.org/content/pacific/en/home/operations/jobs.html> or the UN Joint Presence Initiative Office, FSM.

UNDP is committed to achieving workforce diversity in terms of gender, nationality and culture. Individuals from minority groups, indigenous groups and persons with disabilities are equally encouraged to apply. All applications will be treated with the strictest confidence.

Women candidates are encouraged to apply.

...Amplifying Voices

Continued from page 4

will be in the form of posters, brochures and standing banners, that can be used at each monthly festival and at state and national events, including the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), where Heads of State from 16 Pacific countries will come to Pohnpei in September 2016 to meet for their annual meeting.

Finally, we will create YouTube videos for each group to give them a voice on the internet and showcase themselves and their issues for the world to see. These will be based on the topics they determine to be important to them and mirror the monthly radio programs.

This project will contribute to the benefit of the entire community of Pohnpei, giving a larger voice to these two groups that traditionally don't have a large public voice. This project is needed because these groups have not been able to do this on their own and with the collaboration of Micronesian Productions and other NGOs, we believe we can work with them to effectuate better policies, more women leaders, and greater attention to the needs of the youth in Pohnpei.

The first event for the project was held on September 2nd at the Spanish Wall Park and was a rally for support of the Family Safety Act of 2016. Speakers from the women's group, the youth, the church, and the Pohnpei State Legislature were present to keep the public updated on what the Family Safety Act means to the people of Pohnpei and when to expect that the legislation will be enacted. More than 200 people were in attendance and the event will be aired on public radio and TV for the next few weeks.

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Sekere Early Childhood Education Center receives new playground set from JAA-Pohnpei Branch



On August 17, 2016, the JAA-Pohnpei Branch donated a swing and slide set to the Early Childhood Center (ECE) at Sekere. Now the children have a playground set for the new school year. The JAA-Pohnpei Officers would like to thank the JICA staff, Mr. Charles Sakios, who has been a great advisor and supporter of our community activities since the inception of the group in Fall 2014. The JAA-Pohnpei Officers would like to extend our appreciation to JICA and the Japanese government for making our project ideas come into reality for the Pohnpei community.

FSM NORMA Appoints Fisheries Awareness Ambassador



The FSM National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (NORMA) has recently appointed Ms. Jasmine Mendiola as its Fisheries Awareness Ambassador. In this new role, Ms. Mendiola will be visiting schools and communities throughout the federation to conduct a Fisheries Awareness Program on the tuna fishery, including management, development, sustainability and social responsibility. Every year on May 2nd, World Tuna Day, various organizations and groups that have a stake in tuna fisheries celebrate the significant role tuna plays on a global scale; to commemorate this day, the Parties to the Nauru

Agreement (PNA) Office holds a World Tuna Day Art and Talent Quest to raise awareness about vital tuna stocks. This year, Ms. Mendiola won the top prize for her poem entitled "Teach Your Children" which portrays the need to teach our children about the importance of tuna conservation. "This awareness campaign is something NORMA has always wanted to do, but with our already limited human resources and growing responsibilities in fisheries it has been difficult to jump start," notes NORMA Executive Director Eugene Pangelinan. "Jasmine's artistic creativity was a glaring reminder of the significance of having all our young



NORMA Deputy Director Mathew Chigiyal, Ms. Jasmine Mendiola, NORMA Executive Director Eugene Pangelinan

people understand the substance behind the message shared in her poem."

Ms. Mendiola is no stranger to awareness campaigns, one of the primary reasons she was hand-picked for this task. Her current role as Assistant Director of the Marine and Environmental Research Institute of the Pacific (MERIP) includes a school awareness program to local high schools as well as conducting community workshops on fisheries management. Her

background includes work as a Public Diplomacy and Research Officer at the Australian Embassy, a Data Technician at the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission and Climate Change Project Intern at the Secretariat of the Pacific Community. She is a graduate of COM-FSM's Marine Science Program and one of only a handful of FSM females in the marine science field.

...Disability

Continued from page 3

obligations of countries which have ratified the Convention involve the following:

- taking all appropriate measures (legislative, administrative and other measures) to implement all rights recognized under the CRPD;
- revising or abolishing any discriminatory laws;
- mainstreaming disability through all policies and programs;
- taking steps to eliminate discrimination by any company, organization, or private individual;
- promoting the development of universally designed goods, services, equipment and facilities and affordably priced technologies, aids and devices suitable for persons with disabilities;
- providing accessible information to persons with disabilities about available support services, aids and devices;
- promoting CRPD training of all professionals and staff working with persons with disabilities;
- closely consulting with and actively involving persons with disabilities through their representative organizations when developing and implementing disability policies and legislation and in other decision-making processes.

FSM has already begun work to make the country more inclusive for persons with disability. The FSM Government has had a National Policy on Disability in place since 2009 which is based on the principles of inclusiveness, the removal of exclusionary physical, social and cultural barriers, and the protection of human rights. The policy expires this year, 2016, and is up for renewal.

In addition to this, the FSM government currently receives an annual 4 million USD grant for special education (0 to 21 years) under the Compact of Free Association with the United States. This assists with defraying the costs of such things as transportation and special assistance for children with disabilities. Each state government already has its own program for children with disabilities up until 21 years of age. There is scope for improving the mainstreaming of disability in other sectoral grants under Compact funding as well; for example health care and public infrastructure grants. The FSM Government is in the preliminary stages of reviewing all national legislation for CRPD compliance with technical assistance from the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and the Pacific Office of UNESCAP. Both organizations are also assisting with reviewing and revising the national disability policy together with the Pacific Disability Forum. Ratification in the near future would enable both activities to be reported as implementation measures in FSM's initial CRPD report.

By ratifying the Convention, FSM will subscribe to international standards governing the rights of persons with disabilities; make a long-term commitment to implement the provisions of the Convention in order to improve the lives of Micronesians living with disabilities; and demonstrate commitment to removing discriminatory barriers, integrating disability issues into all existing policies, laws and programs, and promoting disability inclusive development. As FSM is only one of five Pacific Nations which has not ratified this convention and the only one in the North Pacific, it is time for our nation to show its support for human rights and to ratify this import convention.

Pohnpei State responds to its NCD crisis by passing betel nut legislation

Since 2013, Pohnpei State has declared a state of emergency on non-communicable diseases or NCDs. The Pohnpei State Public Health Department created a task force for all health related entities to focus on lowering the incidence of NCDs in the public. This group was called the State NCD Emergency Response Team (SNERT). The Pohnpei SNERT group has been working diligently to try to implement new programs and work on proposed legislation that would effectively prohibit the use of betel nut in people under the age of 18 to help reduce their risk of getting oral cancer and other NCDs that are caused by chewing betel nut, and limiting the exposure of people to others who chew.

This effort wasn't just based on science and from looking at what other states and nations are doing. It was based on data that was collected from a recent high school survey done in Pohnpei that showed 43% of all high school students' survey (1100 students) had chewed betel nut in the last 30 days. 23% of students chewed tobacco with or without betel nut in the last 30 days (something that is not legal by law). Betel nut was the most common substance used amount high school students with 66% of all students aged 18 and over reporting current use of betel nut. This problem was going to just get bigger if nothing was done.

Just last month, in August 2016, the Pohnpei State Legislature added a new Chapter 5 to Title 66 of the Pohnpei Code and called it simply: Betel Nut. This new chapter

prohibits chewing and or spitting betel nut in public places and 25 feet directly outside of a public entrance. Public places are defined as health institutions, educational institutions of all levels, any premises in which children are cared for, and any means of transportation (cars), retail establishment (stores), cinemas, sport stadiums, bars and restaurants, pool and bingo halls, and any facilities accessible to the public. People are still able to spit directly into a container that can be closed and sealed. New signs indicating the new restrictions will soon start coming up around Pohnpei to help keep the public informed of the new legislation and health warnings are also required to be posted at places where people purchase betel nut. Finally, minors are no longer able to purchase betel nut.

We should all be thankful to our Pohnpei State Senators for doing their job and passing this important piece of legislation. It's the job of the legislature to protect the public from dangers and risks so this bill, which is considered unpopular with the general public, is a big accomplishment for Pohnpei State. Our leaders have taken the "high road" to pass this Act and protect our children from the dangers of betel nut. Although the legislation is pending the signature of Governor Peterson, all signs point to this becoming a law in Pohnpei State very soon and people can expect to see new signs about the new law that the Department of Public Safety for Pohnpei State will be tasked to enforce.



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