

Compact Progress Presented to U.S. Congress Subcommittee

Nimea – “The ‘tough love’ theory of economic stimulation has been shown, ever since 1991, to be invalid as applied to the FSM.”

Bussanich – “What the FSM needs is the will to use its resources as a springboard to better sector performance and improved economic growth.”

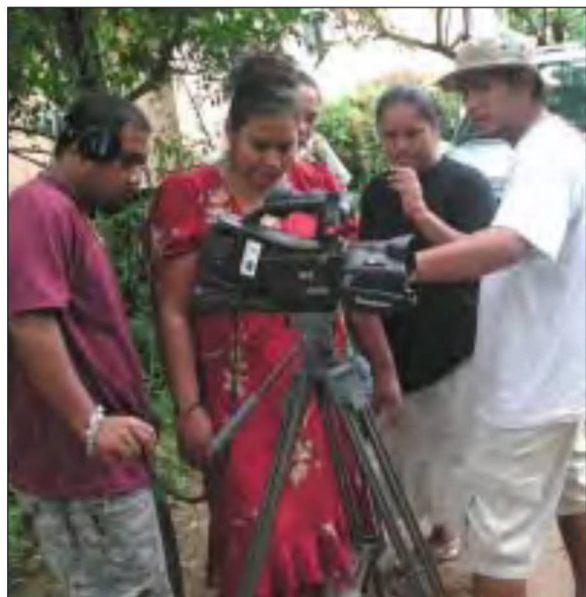
By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

Washington D.C. - On June 10, 2008 Acting Director of the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) Tom Bussanich and the Director of the FSM Office of the of Statistics, Budget & Economic Management, Overseas Development and Compact Management (SBOC), Fabian Nimea presented statements in Washington D.C. The presentations were made before the US House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee on Insular Affairs chaired by Delegate Donna Christensen (D), the delegate to the House of Representatives from the Virgin Islands. The participants were asked to give prepared statements on issues surrounding the implementation of the Compact of Free Association with the United States.

In his statement, Mr. Bussanich said, “Despite the hard work and good intentions of many, we are not satisfied with the results of the outcomes that we have seen. However, we remain firm in our belief that with increased commitment by our partners in the FSM that the Compact will ultimately be successful.”

Throughout the rest of his statement he cited both positive and negative concrete examples to support his thesis and closed with these words, “In conclusion, the FSM faces very serious challenges. It’s challenges are not resources; it has the resources to implement a

Young Micronesians Learn Film Documentary Production Skills for HIV/AIDS In Pohnpei



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Director of SBOC Fabian Nimea presents the FSM’s statement to the subcommittee on Insular Affairs. The FSM Ambassador to Washington D.C., Yosiwo George is pictured at lower right. Acting Director Tom Bussanich is seated just behind and to the right of Nimea

large and important program of improvement to schools, health facilities and other critical infrastructure, with beneficial effect for the FSM’s economy. What the FSM needs is the

will to use its resources as a springboard to better sector performance and improved eco-

See “Compact II” on page 6

Chuuk’s Director of Finance and Administration Says “No”

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

Weno, Chuuk — Despite FSM President Mori’s publicly stated request that parties in Chuuk drop any pending lawsuits that might complicate matters regarding Chuuk State’s financial reforms; two lawsuits filed by attorney Sabino Asor on behalf of his client Gillian Doone were, at press time, still pending at the Chuuk State Supreme Court.

Gillian Doone is the Chuuk State Director of Administrative Services (DAS). Director Doone speaks English extremely well but it seems that the word he has used most often since taking office is only two letters long, “no”.

The first lawsuit he filed was a result of saying “no” to the Chuuk State Legislature and to his boss, the Governor of Chuuk State, Wesley Simina.

He later filed a motion to inter-

vene in a case filed by Fuminori Shirai against Governor Simina and the Chuuk State government regarding a final payment for land currently being used as the Chuuk State International Airport.

Doone has steadfastly refused to release allowance payments for the Chuuk State Legislature members. The Civil Action that he filed at the Chuuk State Supreme Court (38-2008) says that the reason he withheld those payments was that the bill (9-07-02) passed by the Legislature and signed into law by Governor Simina was contrary to the Chuuk State Constitution. The law appropriated \$1.4 million in personnel funding to the Chuuk State Legislature.

Members of the Chuuk Legislature disagree with Doone’s position and continue to demand disbursement of their allowance. The lawsuit includes as an appendix a copy of a joint letter dated April 28 signed by Isiro Choram, the Vice-President, and Alanso Cholymay the Floor Leader of the House of the Senate of the 9th Chuuk State Legislature. The letter, as Governor Simina

See “Gillian Doone” on page 8

First Resident Ambassador of Japan to the FSM Arrives in Pohnpei

The Embassy of Japan



Kolonia, Pohnpei - Mr. Shoji Sato, Ambassador-designate of Japan to the Federated States of Micronesia, arrived in Pohnpei on June 18, 2008.

The arrival of Mr. Sato, Ambassador-designate, is a milestone in the history of the relations between Japan and the FSM because he is the first resident Ambassador of Japan to the FSM since the two governments established diplomatic relations in 1988.

This year is the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between

see “Japan Embassy” on Page 8



New allegations of sexual misconduct at the Pohnpei State Jail

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Pohnpei Gender and Development Committee Hosts 4th Annual Camp GLOW

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Young Micronesians Learn Film Documentary Production Skills for HIV/AIDS In Pohnpei

By *Etivina Lovo (SPC)*

Three short film documentaries about HIV education and prevention were produced by 'young media producer' trainees from Micronesia in a two week workshop held at the Micronesian Seminar complex, Kolonia, Pohnpei, May 26 – June 6, 2008.

The Young media producers were from Guam, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, FSM Chuuk State and Pohnpei State. They came together to Pohnpei to learn film documentary production with HIV/AIDS as the theme.

They produced (1) 'Prevention of HIV Starts at Home' (2) 'HIV Education Begins at Home' (3) 'Condom Challenges in Pohnpei'

Amena Yauvoli, Manager of the SPC Regional office in Pohnpei said at the opening ceremony that the SPC aims to bring training and development activities, such as this workshop, closer to the people of Micronesia and will continue to do so in future.

The workshop is the third in a series of UNESCO Global Network of Young Media Producers workshops for young producers of the Micronesian Islands. It was made possible with fund donated by UNESCO, ADB fund via HIV/AIDS section SPC Noumea, Pacific Regional HIV/AIDS Programme.

The young producers came with various levels of knowledge and skills in film production and differing levels of knowledge regarding the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

In the workshop they learned that a film documentary aims to document reality in films.

They learned to develop ideas for film documentaries for HIV/AIDS prevention in Micronesia. The ideas were written down into a proposal using a format adopted from the Japan National Television (NHK).

"The workshop has given me many opportunities. My mind and my eyes are open seeing everything required to making film documentaries" said Horasio Cook, Nauru.

The young producer's ideas were developed with the aim of targeting HIV/AIDS prevention and behaviour change amongst young people in Pohnpei and in the islands of Micronesia.

"It is hard for us to find this kind of training. It is my first time to operate a camera and I have learned a lot from the workshop, to write a proposal for documentary, structure and elements of a documentary script are challenging but I learned through practical work, which is really good," said Raynold Raymond of Pohnpei.

Raynold went on to discuss how he will use the skills he learned during the workshop to produce TV/Video materials for his peer education work. He wants to change his approach to peer education. He said that just talking is very boring but if he was to use TV/video presentation it would make peer education more enjoyable.

Ms Mercedes Gilmete a Pohnpeian participant who is also a HIV/AIDS assistant educator in Pohnpei Public Health said "Films will make our awareness programs more exciting. We will change our old ways to new approaches. The messages can be delivered in visuals; pictures from their own villages and they will see that together (along) with learning the HIV/AIDS prevention. Through the workshop we have built a relationship with the Pohnpei Island Cable TV, Radio V6AH, FM Radio, and the General Manager of Islands Cable TV mentioned that they are interested in broadcasting our stories."

"I have been a peer educator for 4 years now. I notice that when I do my work as a peer educator, the audience are saying that my presentation is boring. If I change my approach to using film documentaries, TV, drama on video it will make our peer education work more enjoyable, the audience will enjoy and learn from my presentation in a more enjoyable way".

The proposal developed into a film structure. This is when the fun began. The participants were taught to use a professional TV camera and to film for the production of a professional film, taking them away from the idea of filming family movies.

While filming they learned interviewing skills when they interviewed young people, on camera using camera techniques and skills they learned in the workshop. They planned their filming schedule and went filming in downtown Kolonia and other famous places in Pohnpei like Nan Madol, and Keprohi Waterfall.

After the adventure of filming, it was back to the classroom for post production lessons. They sat night and day for three days and wrote and re-wrote their scripts. Those with good voices were trained to narrate their stories. The deadline for the post production was Friday evening of the second week.

U.S. Disburses Reform Assistance For Chuuk

The Embassy of the United States

On June 10, 2008, the U.S. Government disbursed \$2,037,210 in unallocated FY 2008 Compact Sector Grant funds to the FSM National Government to support the Reduction-In-Force (RIF) component of the Chuuk State financial recovery plan. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by the FSM and Chuuk State leadership on July 19, 2007 documents the terms of this plan, which provides a roadmap to restoration of Chuuk State's financial viability.



Modern technology is needed for this type of work and the equipment needed to complete the projects like computers broke down in the 11th hour, adding to everyone's frustration. The Micronesian Seminar is a Catholic Media Production house and they came to the rescue. They loaned the group their editing equipment to use and finally the young producers put together a first draft of the documentaries.

The workshop participants said that the experience was exciting. They were concerned about the expense of producing videos in the future. Film documentaries are equipment intensive requiring at least one digital camera, a digital editing facility and other technology. The students learned a great deal during their workshop and they want to put it into practice but unless donors are able to help them to purchase equipment their skills will go unused.

David Cliffe – General Manager Island Cable TV Pohnpei said, "Most countries have no media, a good media. Failure is 'no tools'. The young producers have done a tremendous job, considering the difficult topic that they are dealing with (HIV). Being able to talk to strangers in interviews about the subject is very difficult. They have learned excellent skills, they have terrific potential but when they get home, do they have the equipment to use for their work? Can donor agencies help in providing equipment for the young people to return to their home countries and use the skills they have learned?"

The Pohnpeian young producers have agreed that after the workshop they will gather their resources and work together to produce films for their work to prevent the spread of HIV and STIs in Pohnpei.

The workshop was conducted by staff of the SPC Regional Media Centre, Mr Aren Baosa, TV and Video Production Officer, Etivina Lovo, Media Training Associate and Robyn Drysdale, Behaviour Change and Communication Specialist; HIV/AIDS section SPC, Noumea. Mr Abel Caine of UNESCO Apia Office was present during the first week of the workshop.

The Kaselehlie Press

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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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Opening of the 1st Meeting of the Micronesia Challenge Working Groups

FSM Information Services

On 2 June His Excellency President Mori addressed delegates at the opening of the 1st Meeting of the Micronesia Challenge Technical and Communications Working Groups at the FSM national government conference centre at Palikir, Pohnpei.

Since 2006, when the Heads of Government from the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the United States Territory of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, signed up to the Micronesia Challenge, a commitment to effectively conserve 30 percent of near-shore marine resources and 20 percent of terrestrial resources across Micronesia by 2020, work has been progressing to support the implementation of these ambitious goals.

President Mori urged the working groups, comprised of local and international technical experts, government officials and representatives of partners in the Micronesia Challenge to press ahead with their urgent work.

The meeting consisted of two working groups. One focused on effectiveness measures for the actions of the Micronesia Challenge, the other addressed communications support for achieving the goals of the Challenge.

President Mori noted that although the Micronesia Challenge was largely developed

and has been nurtured by government and NGO officials since 2004, it is not a challenge to outsiders. The commitment it is a challenge that Micronesians have set for themselves to do the right thing to conserve their natural resources and way of life in the areas where they have legal control and capacity to so.

“Effective implementation of the Challenge requires that you go back to developing or reinforcing support at the grass-roots of each local community,” said President Mori.

He asked representatives from government agencies and conservation groups from the five jurisdictions to ensure that the goals for conservation of marine and terrestrial resources be developed with the communities affected, and that the indicators to measure the achievement of those goals be clear and relevant to those communities.

President Mori noted that despite initiatives like the Micronesia Challenge, some citizens and political leaders are not yet heeding the call for conservation. With this, President Mori made a personal commitment.

“I really like to eat turtle but for the sake of conservation and the Micronesia Challenge, I challenge myself not to eat turtle anymore. Additionally, from today, I renounce eating fish that may have been ‘dynamited’.”

Over five days the Working Groups met to develop activities to drive the Challenge



forward. The Technical Working Group developed a process for measuring the effectiveness of on the ground conservation activities using biological and social indicators for the marine and terrestrial resources. The Communication Working Group developed a regional communications plan to better engage with key partners for the Challenge and to improve coordination across all five jurisdictions.

During the week the Micronesia Challenge Steering Committee comprised of the five jurisdictional representatives or ‘focal points’ met and elected Mr Marion Henry as the new Chairperson of the Steering Committee. Other items discussed by the Committee included hiring a regional co-

ordinator, updates from each jurisdictional focal point on their sustainable financing plans and development of a business plan for the Micronesia Challenge.

The **Micronesia Challenge** is a collective commitment by the Heads of Government of five Micronesian jurisdictions — the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the United States Territory of Guam and Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas — to effectively conserve at least 30% of their marine and 20% of their forest environments by 2020. It was announced to the international community in March 2006 at the 8th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

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- Vinyl Tile 18" - \$26.99 bx/16pc. 36sq.ft.
- Ceramic Tile 12" - \$19.99 bx/17

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CSP's 8th Annual Youth-to-Youth Environmental Fair

Conservation Society of Pohnpei

On May 16th 2008, the Conservation Society of Pohnpei (CSP) with its partner agencies, held the eighth annual Environmental Fair under its Youth-to-Youth (Y2Y) in Environmental Awareness and Education Program. More than 200 people showed up to watch including Lt. Governor Churchill Edward who delivered a keynote speech for the event. The purpose of the fair was to have the 6th graders showcase and share what they've learned throughout the school year.

The environmental fair was held at the Pohnpei Public gymnasium in Dolonier, Nett. Students, teachers and parents from the eight schools came together and conducted informative and educational presentations about the environment. The eight elementary schools with their projects are as follows:

Sekere Elementary School presented the issue of non-biodegradable waste that has become a huge problem on the island. They presented the message of garbage taking a long time to disintegrate through a skit. It was interesting to see these Sekere students teaching the audience about the timeline of different non-biodegradable waste such as bottles, tins, cans, plastics, and others to break into the soil compared to biodegradable materials. The partner agency working with Sekere elementary school was the Pohnpei Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Lukop elementary school presented the importance of rare banana varieties that have been neglected. In their presentation they discussed all kinds of bananas that we have here on Pohnpei, but they focused on the yellow fleshed bananas because they are high in pro-vitamin A and other carotenoids. These yellow fleshed bananas, Utin lap, Utimwas, Karat, and of course Taiwang that is being used to feed the pigs instead of us eating it are becoming more rare. Also the Lukop students reminded the audience that a number of these varieties are hardly found in other parts of the world therefore we should conserve them. Lukop School worked with the Island Food Community of Pohnpei (IFCP).

Ohmine Elementary School also touched on the growing amount of non-biodegradable waste. Ohmine students visited Lenger and other Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and realized that trash is also a threat to our marine environment aside from over-fishing and sedimentation. They explained that by applying the 4R's - Refuse, Reuse, Recycle and Reduce we can help to save the home of the fish that we depend on for living. They said, refuse means refuse to take something when is not needed such as plastic bags.

Allegations of Sexual Misconduct at the Pohnpei State Jail

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

Pohnpei, FSM - Two women arrested for theft of property and detained at the Pohnpei State Jail pending trial for the crimes that they are accused of committing have accused five correctional officers of violations of their civil rights.

The women, whose names are being withheld due to the sensitive nature of the charges they have brought against the State allege that four Pohnpei State Correctional Officers were admitted to their cell by the female officer who held the key to the cell. The women claim that the four male officers had intimate contact with them against their will.

We must reuse bottles of Clorox, plastics bags, drums, tires, and others that can be reused instead of being thrown away. Recycling aluminums, scrap metals, and other recycling materials are not just good for the health of our environment but it benefits us by saving money as well. By applying refuse, reuse, recycle and reduce, we are contributing to the good health of the marine life. CSP Marine Program was working with Ohmine school.

SDA performed a skit and poster presentation on the importance of the Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). SDA Elementary partnered with the Marine Conservation Unit (MCU) from the Division of Forestry and Marine Conservation. The skit and poster presentation mainly focused on MPA rules and regulations. The students also highlighted the changes in fish populations since the establishment of MPAs. Most importantly, the students presented the key importance of MPAs as a tool for marine and fisheries conservation. They concluded their show with the Green Road Show song, "If we really love Pohnpei, help Pohnpei".

Seinwar Elementary School collaborated with CSP Terrestrial program and presented their drawings about deforestation due to the growing demand for sakau. The presentation also added the fact that Pohnpei's forest has gone down from 42% in 1975 to 13% in 2002 due to forest clearing. The students expressed the need for our government and traditional leaders to be serious with their decisions that will affect their future, such as a decision to complete the delineation and strong enforcement of the Pohnpei Watershed Forest Reserve (WFR).

ESDM Elementary School in partnership with CSP Ethnobotany project also did a poster presentation on the importance of local medicinal plants in Pohnpei. We were reminded by ESDM students that we are blessed with so many different species of plants that are useful in life. This presentation was interesting in a way that they convince the people to pass on their knowledge and skills about local medicines to younger generation. ESDM students went around asking their family and community members with the assistance of ethno-program about some plants and their usages, and then presented it to the crowd at the fair. This is a good lesson for the sustainability of our traditional knowledge and cultural practices.

Awak Elementary School in partnership with Pohnpei State Division of Forestry and Marine Conservation focused on the importance of the mangrove forest. They performed a skit to get their message across. Some may think that we only have one species of mangrove on the is-

land, but the Awak students proved in their studies that we have about seven species of mangroves. They called on their fellow students and Pohnpei citizens to work together to protect our mangrove forests. They reminded us that Pohnpei is has one of the largest intact mangrove forests in the world and we must preserve it. They concluded their presentation with a song, 'Kitail Kolokol Apwalih Sapwatail Pohnpei', meaning, 'Preserving our Natural Heritage.'

When asked if criminal charges could be filed against the Correctional Officers, Chief Donre said that he couldn't answer that question as it would be a matter for the State Attorney General to decide.

Pohnpei Attorney Martin Jano has filed a "Notice of Claim" at the Pohnpei State Attorney General's office on behalf of the

women. According to Jano the Pohnpei State Government has 50 days under State law from the date of the claim to take administrative action before a lawsuit can be filed on behalf of the incarcerated women.

This is not the first time that charges of civil rights abuses for sexual misconduct have been leveled at the Pohnpei State Jail by female detainees.

Jano is currently representing another female client in an ongoing lawsuit against Pohnpei State that alleges another incidence of unwanted intimate contact with a correctional officer within the jail.

Jano said that it is normal for males to react to females when they inhabit the same place

The fair was another great success and the Y2Y Task Force committee felt the message is already in those students and it will continue to be shared to their family, friends and community members. CSP would like to thank all the partner agencies for the wonderful effort in collaborating with their partner schools and making the Y2Y Program a success. We also wish to extent our gratitude to Governor's Office, Office of Social Affairs for allowing us to utilize the Public Gym, V6AH Radio, Namiki, Ace Office Supplies, Election District #3, Kenny Inc for the good sound system, Principals of the participating schools, the partner agencies, parents, Department of Education (DOE) and all the partner agencies. All the preparations and the Environmental Fair would have not been all possible without the great kind support of the Marisla Foundation.

Micronesia

Conservation Trust (MCT) Receives \$50,000 from FSM Government

Micronesian Conservation Trust

Our FSM government has granted \$50 000 to the Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT). This grant will help match the \$500 000 pledge from an international donor. It will also potentially help the MCT reach the \$2.5 million goal for the endowment that has been set out. Because of the local contribution, other foreign donors are more inclined to provide a match when they see true commitment by local governments towards their own initiatives and this also assures potential donors that this initiative is a priority for our government says Willy Kostka.

According to Kostka, this grant demonstrates how "A gift generated locally can turn into so much more internationally."

Kostka says that our FSM government is demonstrating its commitment to environmental conservation and sustainable development. Combined with the help of outside support, FSM is recognizing the value of doing this in terms of maintaining cultural identity, long term economic endeavors and setting a global standard. Our government's support of the MCT is allowing it to continue supporting the local communities, which in turn is a reflection of our government's commitment to support local communities now and in the future.

The MCT is a granting agency that was established in 2002. In fact, last year alone, 76% of its total operating funds were regranted towards local conservation projects. It is also working to mobilize funding from a variety of public and private sources to build an endowment of US \$20 million to provide long-term support for sustainable biodiversity resource management in Micronesia.

Our islands are among the most extraordinary places in the world, with spectacular land and seascapes and they are teeming with some of the most unique species on the planet. Unfortunately we are also one of the most (technically and financially) under resourced regions in the world. And so what we lack in resources, we must make up for in innovation. Local communities can take pride in locally generated funding, as it also sends a message to the government and international donors saying we are ready to take ownership of our land and seas and to set an inspiring global example.

at the same time. "It's only natural," said Jano. He claimed that the Pohnpei State Jail facility and the handling of female prisoners at the jail are the problems and that those two factors give rise to an increased likelihood that female prisoners might become the victims of sexual misconduct. He claimed that there are no facilities to separate males and females at the jail. He told us that there are no separate bathroom or shower facilities, and there is no separate wing for detention of women at the jail.

Unless or until the correctional officers are cleared of the charges leveled at them there will only be two female officers at the Pohnpei State Jail. A female officer must always be on the premises when there are female detainees in the jail.

FSM Receives Fellows of the Island Fellows Program of OIA

Press Release of the US Embassy

Washington, DC – April 22, 2008:

The Office of Insular Affairs announced the roster of the sixth Island Fellows Program today in Washington, D.C. The team, is comprised of eight MBA candidates from the Columbia School of Business, the Wharton School in the University of Pennsylvania, the Kellogg School of Management in Northwestern University, the McDonough School of Business in Georgetown University, the Harvard Business School, and the University of Hawaii. They will begin their 10-week program in Washington, D.C. on June 11, 2008. Over the past few years, the Island Fellows program has made significant contributions to the Department of the Interior's ongoing efforts to promote private sector-led economic development in the U.S.-affiliated insular areas, conducting field research and outreach in support of large-scale events hosted by the Department of the Interior.

This year's program will provide for two Island Fellows to be assigned to the FSM. They will both arrive in their assigned FSM states on June 19. The one assigned to Pohnpei and Kosrae, Ms. Kelly Miksa, is an MBA student at the Columbia Business School in New York. She will stay on Pohnpei

for approximately one week before traveling to Kosrae on June 27 for a week. The other Island Fellow, Mr. Zachary Morello, an MBA student at the Harvard Business School, will travel directly to Chuuk on June 19 and spend a week there before traveling on to Yap on June 26. While in their respective states, they will meet with local businesses and government leaders to identify local priorities for the types of businesses that FSM citizens and residents believe should be invited to the fifth Secretary of the Interior's Conference on Business Opportunities in the Islands, to be held in Honolulu in April 2009. Once the Island Fellows return from the islands, they will begin to market the next Conference actively, and OIA staff will welcome recommendations from business owners in the FSM for making the next Conference the best one yet.

This year's Island Fellows will also be introducing a new business development tool known as "Island Business Link." It is a system to facilitate the matching of island businesses with businesses anywhere in the world and is based on the model OIA used for the "business-to-business (B2B) meetings" that were held at the last two Conference on Business Opportunities in the Islands. The Island Fellows assigned to the FSM will be conducting at least

one workshop in each assigned state for government and business leaders on how the system works. Ideally, the workshop(s) will be followed up with one-on-one meetings between the Island Fellows and individuals to answer questions and actually to post some FSM business opportunities to the system.

The Island Fellows will return to Washington, DC on July 4, and in addition to providing continuing support for the rollout of Island Business Link, they will also work on the development and outreach for the next planned Conference on Business Opportunities in the Islands, tentatively scheduled for April 2009. The contact person for the Island Fellowship program as well as IslandBusinessLink.com is Ms. Angie Williams who may be emailed at angela_williams@ios.doi.gov. In the FSM the contact for meeting the Fellows or attending the one of the planned workshops are Mr. Vic Hobson, FAS Federal Programs Coordinator, and Mr. Gary Bloom, Press Officer for the Embassy. Mr. Hobson and Mr. Bloom both can be reached at the U.S. Embassy in Pohnpei and via email at HobsonVJ@state.gov and bloomgd@state.gov respectively. They may also be reached by phone at: 691-320-2187.

Contact in Kosrae is through Mr.

Skiller Jackson (skiller@pacificsbdc.com).

Kelly Miksa, an MBA candidate at Columbia Business School, served as Assistant Director of Admission at Pepperdine University where she founded and directed the office's Multicultural Recruitment and Outreach Division. She has consulted for social ventures in both Kenya and rural Cambodia, working with an NGO start-up to refine its business model and leading a team of consultants to develop a positioning and international marketing strategy for a Nairobi-based retailer. She holds a BA cum laude from the University of Southern California and was captain of the university's competitive Ballroom and Latin Dance Team.

Zach Morello, an MBA candidate at the Harvard Business School, has worked as a business technology consultant for Deloitte Consulting in Boston, MA and New York City, working in the Technology Integration Practice, optimizing business processes for Fortune 500 companies and state governments. He holds an Ed.M. degree in technology in education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, and was graduated from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst with a B.S. degree in computer systems engineering.

INVITATION TO SUBMIT FULL PROPOSALS

This is an open Call for Proposals. Applications must include both a Concept Note and a Full Application Form. In the first instance, only the Concept Notes will be evaluated. Thereafter the Full Application Forms corresponding to the pre-selected Concept Notes will undergo evaluation.

The eligibility conformity check will only be performed for the full applications that are provisionally selected. This check will be undertaken on the basis of the supporting documents requested by the Contracting Authority and the "Declaration by the applicant" signed and sent together with the application.

All references to the Internet links indicated in the present document are valid at the time of publication of this Call for Proposals. Nevertheless, they may be subject to changes at a later stage.

Projects must address **Ecosystem Management** through Conservation Areas and Research and Monitoring, and **Human Resources and Institutional Development** through human capacity, institutional capacity, and Public Awareness and Education. The mainstreaming of gender equality, the rights of the child, and the rights of persons with disabilities is strongly encouraged across all themes under this Call.

Eligible Recipients:

Any Non-State Actors (NSAs) such as non-government organizations, educational and research institutions, and community-based organizations/groups **based and chartered** in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM).

Grants:

There is a minimum USD \$25,000 and maximum USD \$50,000 for each project. Duration of project implementation must not exceed 12 months.

How to Apply:

Contact the Program Officer (*see address below*) to obtain an application form. Fill out application form and mail or hand-deliver to Micronesia Conservation Trust. Faxed/e-mailed applications will **NOT** be accepted.

Deadline for Submission:

Mailed applications must be postmarked by July 07, 2008 (Monday). Those delivered by hand or courier must be submitted to MCT office by 5:00 p.m. that day.



Federated States of Micronesia



European Union

For more information, please contact the following:

Ms. Mary Rose Nakayama, Program Officer

P.O. Box 2177 Kolonia, Pohnpei FM 96941; Tele: (691) 320 5670 Fax: (691) 320 8903

e-mail: mctcepp@mail.fm; website: www.mctconservation.org

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conomic growth.

He said that the US-FSM Joint Economic Management Committee (JEMCO) "still finds the FSM grappling with plans for Capacity Building, Environment and Private Sector development grants but notes progress in budget presentations in Education and Health."

Director Nimea said that the Compact is achieving "two of its three major goals". He said that the Compact had achieved its first major goal, "the maintenance of peace and security in the vast region of the former Trust Territory of the Pacific." He said that the second major goal, "to support and help maintain stable democratic governments in our region," has also been successful with the assistance of the Compact of Free Association.

He said, "As a third goal, the drafters and amenders of the Compact have always had in mind that the Compact assistance would itself jumpstart a process of steady, private-sector economic growth in the FSM leading eventually to substantial, national self-reliance. Speaking today, I wish to suggest that, that assumption was at least in some degree misplaced, for reasons we can now understand."

As support for that conclusion he said that in the areas of private sector growth and self-reliance, "the Compact as currently written does not reflect a working understanding of the unique difficulties faced by remote, small island developing states such as in the FSM." He further said that the FSM differs from the other two Freely Associated States (FAS) (the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palau) in that the FSM consists of "four culturally distinct States separated by vast distances". He said that failing to realize that fact "assigns identical obligations and responsibilities to all three of the FAS."

He said that it is time to "call for some mid-course adjustments if there is to be any realistic hope of the FSM's reaching the third objective by the year 2023."

He said that the FSM embraced the challenge presented under Compact II to establish a common, performance-based system of budgeting for sectoral Compact grants believing that they would take the nation in the direction of becoming a more meaningful participant in the emerging age of Globalization.

"We had come to realize that the concept of 'self-sufficiency, which had been discussed as a goal of the original Compact, probably was not only unachievable but is in fact undesirable in today's world. We now instead embraced at the onset of the Amended Compact the very different goal of having a healthy degree of 'self-reliance' within the world community and among our neighbors and friends. This means that while we continue to solicit needed goods, services and assistance, we develop our capacities to make contributions to the global society in return."

He said that the nation established plans "but the question remained, as to how quickly our capacity to implement them could be brought online..." He told the committee that the FSM's request for a transition period in which to mobilize a coordinated compliance with the new requirements was denied.

Acting Director Bussanich said that the JEMCO, in August 2003 allowed for a five

year transitional period for Public Sector Capacity building at the end of which time the government's non-Compact operations were to have been self supporting. He said that transitional period is now over and the Government still is not ready to support itself. He said that OIA does not expect to recommend that JEMCO support projects in fiscal year 2009 that "seek no more than to cover the recurring costs of government offices whose output is ill-defined and only very loosely related to the purpose of these (the six Compact supported) sectors."

Nimea said that during the coming year the US and the FSM would need to examine the organization and function of the JEMCO in order to increase its effectiveness.

He said, "The 'tough love' theory of economic stimulation has been shown, ever since 1991, to be invalid as applied to the FSM."

The only concrete recommendation that Nimea made other than for a mid-course adjustment of the terms of the Compact and a look at how to make the JEMCO a more effective body was to suggest a possible funding source for the Submarine Fiber Optic Cable for FSM.

He reminded the committee that the Investment Development Fund was established by the US Congress in 1986 as a fund to help start joint venture businesses between Micronesian and American firms. He said that the fund currently has an unappropriated balance of \$40 million and that the money if used for the fiber optic cable would be "one of the most intelligent investments the United States could make in opening up real economic development in the FSM, not to mention the equally valuable social service benefits in the sectors of health and education. Importantly, this resource is not dependent on fossil fuel, weather, or transportation. We in the FSM desperately need a source of revenue that meets those criteria."

As a final point Nimea told the subcommittee that the latest quarterly earnings statement for the FSM Trust Fund showed that it had lost 6% of its value and is now down from \$139 million to \$131 million. He said that factor was yet another of the many challenges that the FSM faces, an "unpredictable force in trying to reach the goal of significant self-reliance by 2023."

In conclusion he said, "There is no single easy answer, and I do not pretend to propose one here, but I sincerely hope that during the coming year our discussion can proceed in an atmosphere where all are taking into consideration the essential realities of the equation."

Bussanich's statement was very specific on what the shortcomings and accomplishments of Compact implementation have been. He was also quick to point out that the current administration "under President Manny Mori is addressing crucial matters—the slow pace of infrastructure growth, performance assessment, economic reform, and improvements to conditions in Chuuk—with new energy and focus."

He said that the goals of the Compact are to assist the government of the FSM to promote the economic advancement and budgetary self-reliance of its people. He said that it was never intended to underwrite the entire FSM economy. It was intended to be an economic springboard and to a lesser extent a safety net for the FSM.

He said that in the last five years, the FSM has far too often taken refuge in the safety net. "The result," he said "is lost time, lost opportunities, a declining economy and a continuing over-reliance on public sector employment."

Bussanich said that FSM governments often have not complied with the agreements of the Compact and that lack of compliance has been especially visible in four areas: in providing coherent and accurate budgets, in performance and economic reporting, in organizing to implement the infrastructure grant program, and in adhering to the purposes of the following sector grants: Public Sector Capacity Building, Environment, and Private Sector Development.

Bussanich said that for economic progress the FSM must initiate substantial reform of its tax and fiscal policy, the public sector and public sector enterprises, land titling and foreign investment.

He said that the FSM lacks expertise in economic planning for growth and yet it does not seek to allocate the funding that has been established for that purpose. "It seeks instead to find ways to maintain public sector payrolls as an apparent first priority."

Director Nimea, in his statement said that he is moving as fast as possible to identify and hire highly qualified economists and statisticians.

Bussanich continued his statement saying that the FSM has been very slow in accepting a process based approach for 1) infrastructure project selection, 2) development and adherence to recognized professional construction and safety standards, and 3) project implementation.

He said that the FSM prefers to award funds on a formulaic basis among the four states of the FSM and pointed to the obstacle of access to public land particularly in Chuuk where, he said, almost every school needs to be replaced.

Having listed some of the problems of the FSM in implementing the Compact agreement Bussanich said that OIA is encouraged at the progress that has been made in recent months with regard to infrastructure projects. He said that the current administration is actively engaged in addressing the problems.

He had particularly high words of praise for the actions already undertaken by the Depart-

ment of Education under its new Secretary Mr. Cassiano Shoniber. He listed a good number of positive steps that have recently taken place in that department to help the FSM to move forward in the area of education.

"Despite the challenges facing the FSM, the lack of quality performance data, and the generally poor condition of the schools throughout the country, FSM education systems are taking small steps to serve the country better."

Bussanich also said that OIA is encouraged at the overall improvement of the effectiveness of the use of Health Sector funds.

There is still a distance to go in this area in that "the health sector is still challenged in financial and human resources in almost all areas" but there have been good accomplishments over the past five years.

Bussanich said that the FSM economy depends on public sector spending of foreign assistance. He said that Government expenditures, two-thirds of which are funded by external grants, account for more than half of the FSM's gross domestic product.

He said that even fisheries and tourism, the two private sector industries identified as having growth potential face significant barriers to expansion because of the FSM's remote geographic location, inadequate infrastructure, and poor business environment.

A recent evaluation conducted by the World Bank designed to measure the ease of doing business in 32 Pacific island nations ranked the FSM and Timor Leste number 31, tied for last place in the Pacific.

Before summing up his statement, Acting Director Bussanich said that the Trust Fund Committee is investigating possible "securitization" of future contributions to the Trust Fund with the objective of increasing the 2023 value of the fund assets. He said that securitization would permit the Trust Fund to invest with a longer time horizon by bringing forward the United States contributions scheduled for later years but at a cost. The Committee is analyzing the potential benefits and risks of such a move. Bussanich said that if the plan is deemed advantageous, a change in the Compact law would be necessary before it could be utilized.

The JEMCO will meet in Washington in late August to allocate fiscal year 2009 grant funds and to further discuss the progress in the FSM.

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"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.
Proverbs 22:6

Nahlap Island Resort

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

A writer constantly seeks subjects about which to write, sometimes to our own detriment. Truly, when my wife and I decided that we would spend the weekend of our 27th wedding anniversary at the Nahlap Island Resort, I never intended to turn the celebration into fodder for the Kaselehlie Press but writing is what I do and we enjoyed our stay at Nahlap Island Resort. I think you might enjoy it as well.

Nahlap Island is owned by the Nanpei family. The Nahlap Island Resort is operated by former Pohnpei State Governor Johnny P. David. It is a beautifully situated island only about an eight minute boat ride from the mouth of the Lehn Mehsi River in Kitti.

The owners have obviously thought about what visitors to their island might like to do when they visit. Whether your desire is to play in the water all day long, play volleyball on their groomed volleyball court, have a business or community meeting in a beautiful environment, or just sit on the shore with a loved one near the ocean waves with a good book, Nahlap Island Resort can accommodate either for a day trip or an overnighter.

The owners have built two long and sturdy docks, one for arriving and departing guests and the other, purely for fun and relaxation. The resort has recently added two water slides supported by long lasting mangrove wood. They have several "sit-aboard" kayaks for rent at an almost ridiculously reasonable hourly rate. Snorkel gear is also available for rent for those who can't or simply forgot to bring their own.

Snorkeling is not the greatest attraction of Nahlap Island Resort though I have been told that the combination of a paddle to the shipwreck, an obvious feature of the western view from Nahlap and a snorkeling foray around the wreck is fairly spectacular.

A recent addition on the western end of the island is a small and picturesque chapel that might be suitable for weddings. It was completed on Saturday June 7, 2008.

In my experience there are still some problems at Nahlap Island Resort, problems they say they are constantly working on. I called for a reservation eight days before my wife and I intended to weekend on the island. An hour after our on time arrival at the departure site the water taxi still had not arrived.

Be aware that if you bring a cell phone to the departure site hoping to call the resort when you arrive at the dock you will not be able to do so without walking to the top of the hill. A cell phone signal is finally available when you reach the church at the top of that hill.

Once we did arrive at the Nahlap Island

Resort we found that the staff was courteous and attentive to our needs. Porters unloaded our ice chests and other personal items from the boat and loaded them on to carts for delivery to the "cottage" where we would spend the weekend. The "cottage" is small and rustic and suitable for two. After settled in the porters brought us a table and two chairs at no extra charge.

We thought we were going to have the whole area to ourselves until a group of recent high school graduates arrived and essentially took over. They continued to take over all night long. The weekend ended early for four of the graduates who were transported back to the mainland where they were met by Pohnpei State Police Officers who provided them courteous transportation to police headquarters.

According to the newly hired manager of the Nahlap Island Resort, Mr. Roland Irons, it was the first time that the resort had utilized its direct radio connection to the Kitti Municipal Police department since they established the connection two years ago.

For those who think they can go to Nahlap Island Resort, get drunk and disorderly, or any other form of law breaking because there is no law enforcement on Nahlap perhaps you should just stay home. You're 100% wrong. You can get busted even on Nahlap. Bravo to the staff who handled the situation as well as they could on that late Friday night.

Sometime during our final night on the island, parties unknown to us stole my wife's zorries and my dive boots that were on the front porch. We thought it might have been the island's dog (whose name is "Nahla" if you should happen to meet her) that absconded with our personal effects. Since there were several beers missing from our coolers as well and we never smelled beer on Nahla's breath we re-evaluated that position. Once again, Mr. Irons and staff sprung into action scouring the island for our missing personal effects. The fact that they were never recovered does not diminish the effort they undertook to at least try.

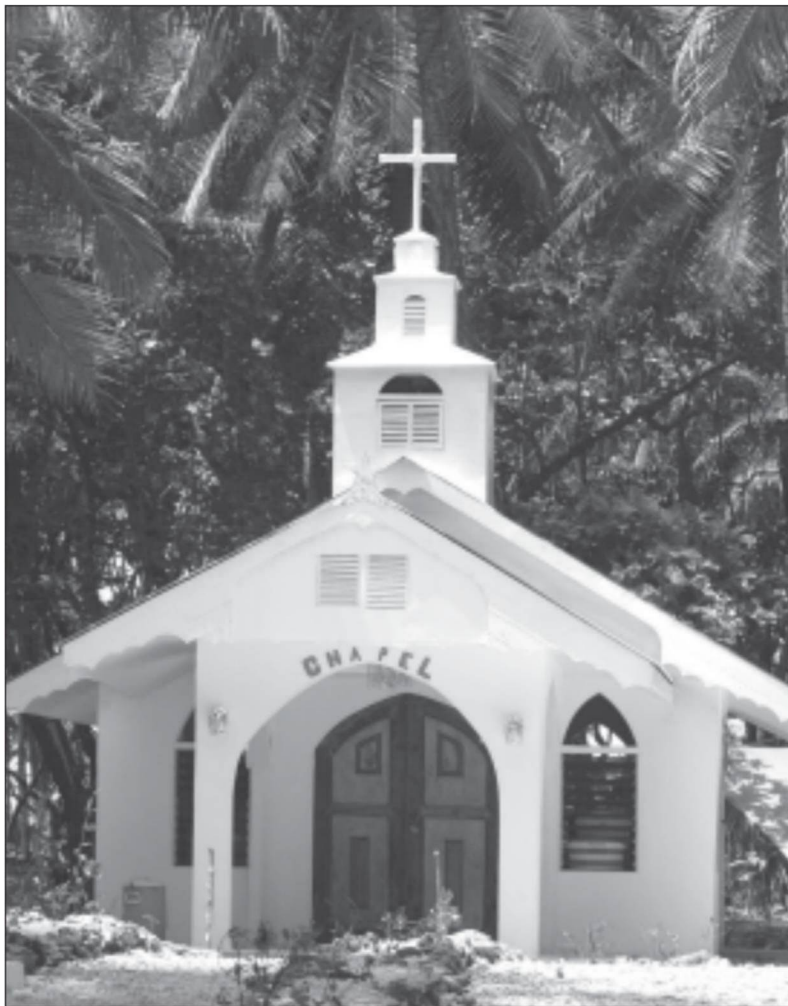
I'm told that the events of the weekend were an anomaly; that they happen only rarely. The management gave us a discount just the same even though the problems we experienced weren't really their fault.

It was mostly a highly enchanting weekend spent sometimes just wandering back

and forth on the sandy beaches, splashing in the water, and sometimes just kicking back and watching the waves roll in.

One word of warning needs to be mentioned. I'm 6'4" tall and it seems that I should, by now be used to watching out for overhanging branches or tin roof edges. Apparently I'm not. At Nahlap I smacked my head more in one day than I have done in the last two years. Should they cut down overhanging tree branches just because I'm too stupid to watch my own head? Of course not! A word to the wise is sufficient I think. I on the other hand, simply have to live with the knots on my head.

Reservations for water taxis to Nahlap Island Resort can be made by calling cell phone number (691) 921-0614. The taxi ride costs \$2 each way for adults and \$1 for children



and students. On Sundays the cost goes down to \$1 for adults each way. If you are visiting the island for a day trip the cost for adults is \$3, children and students pay \$2 each. Overnight trips incur a \$5 fee for adults and \$3 for children and students. If your group includes 30 or more people the fee for an overnight is a \$3 per person flat rate. Cottages and the nahs cost \$10 per night while most of the local huts cost \$5 per night. Bedding, mattresses, pillows, and fans are available for nightly rental as well for very reasonable prices. There is no power on the island in the day time but it is turned on nightly to provide lighting for the cabins and for the well lighted and well groomed path that covers the length of the island.

To insure that there is a space available for your group, reservations and pre-payment is recommended.

To get to the Nahlap departure point from Kolonia, follow the circumferential road toward Kitti. You will pass the Kitti Municipal office on the left side of the road. Not too much further on you will cross over the Lehn Mehsi river (the largest river in Pohnpei). Beyond that bridge the road curves

steeply up and to the right. At the top of the hill there is a paved road on which you can take a right hand turn. Follow that road past the Church (make any last minute cell phone calls from there) and steeply down an unpaved road to the bottom. Park and wait for your taxi to arrive.

Despite the few little hassles we found our weekend at Nahlap Island Resort to be enjoyable and a nice change of pace. We will return on another day.

One last anecdotal side story...

My wife and I would like to humbly thank three families that reminded us about the generosity of Pohnpeian people.

The Peter and Lebehn families could have shook their collective heads and clicked their tongues at the stupid mehnwai (ex pats) whose car had a flat tire and who didn't have tools to change it even if their spare tire wasn't also flat. Instead they sprang to action, pulled a brand new space saver tire from their trunk, set their backs to work and changed the tire all while I stood feeling completely overwhelmed with their generosity and no small amount of stupidity. I was also amazed that they trusted me to get their spare tire back to them which we did do the following day.

Meanwhile, my wife, who had walked to the circumferential road, found out that taxis don't run in Kitti on Sundays. Only three cars passed in 20 minutes and the third one was occupied by the Penias family who hadn't really intended to drive all the way into Kolonia but gave my barefooted wife a ride home anyway. All refused to take payment.

I'd like to think that this is what "Pohnpei Met" really means!



Even our dog loved Nahlap

...Gillian Doone

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pointed out in his letter to Doone dated two days later was “in a much stronger tone” than the ones the Legislature had previously sent on the same topic—“something” Simina said, “I can no longer ignore at this time.”

The letter was indeed strong. It said, among other things that “your Director has chosen not to comply with the budget law, as he wrongly believes that the budget act is only a planning document and that it is up to him as to which portions of the enacted budget he would make payments on. This cannot go on. This must not be repeated. We will no longer tolerate any clear violations of our laws and constitution.”

Both Simina’s letter and the letter from the House of the Senate said essentially that their act was constitutional. Citing the State Constitution the letter continued, “Inherent in that granted power, and as presented elsewhere in other laws, the Governor may remove anyone most especially those members of his cabinets who serve at his pleasure.”

Simina gave Doone five days to make at least a \$1000 payment to each member of both Houses of the Legislature within five working days from his April 30 letter. That payment still has not been made.

According to Director Doone, he told the Governor that he would make the payments but then would resign from his position as DAS. Not long after, he decided to ‘stick to his guns’ and instead filed a lawsuit and continued in his position as the DAS.

The lawsuit lists four causes for the action the first of which is a violation of Chuuk State Constitution’s limit on members’ salary and allowances. The filing says that the aggregate sum of a legislative member’s salary and allowance is not to exceed three fourths of the Governor’s salary. It says that that a member’s expense allowance shall not exceed one fifth of his or her annual salary.

The Chuuk State Constitution requires an affirmative majority by voter referendum before salaries for the Governor, Lt. Governor, and members of the Legislature can be increased. Even then the increase could not exceed \$2000 for each member.

The first cause of action says that there has never been any voter’s referendum on the issue since the Budget Law for Fiscal Year 1991. The action says that the Budget Law for 2008 was not approved by a majority of voters as required and therefore the law violates the Constitution’s limits on Salary and Expense and is “null and void to that extent.”

The second cause of action for the lawsuit was for violation of Oaths of Office(s). The lawsuit says that the Legislature and the Governor knew that the appropriation under 9-07-02 “had exceeded the amount of salary and expense allowance permitted by the Constitution through interpretation by the Chuuk State Supreme Court, and they knew that no such appropriations consequent to the Chuuk State Supreme Court decision in 1995 (Sauder vs Chuuk State Legislature) has ever been approved by the voters, and yet they demanded disbursement

of the appropriation.”

The third cause of action was for violation of the Chuuk State Financial Management Act. According to the filing by Doone’s lawyer, “the Chuuk State Code prohibits any officer or employee of the State from ordering anyone to obligate funds of the General Fund unless at the same time there are funds...available for obligations.” The law “also prohibits any officer or employee of the State from making or authorizing any expenditure of funds, or in excess of the amount appropriated.”

The lawsuit said that the Legislature and the Governor “knew or should have known” that the funds they appropriated were beyond those allowed by the Constitution and that the act of instructing to disburse those funds was a violation of the Chuuk Financial Management Act.

The fourth cause of action says “based on information and belief and subject to proof at trial, the defendants, including some of their predecessors to Office; may have been receiving official salaries and allowances in amount incorrectly calculated...that are violative of the Chuuk State Constitution’s limits on official Legislative salaries and allowances and the Constitution’s proscribed procedures for salary increases for elective officials of the State.”

As to relief the lawsuit requests:

- 1) Declaratory Judgment declaring that all appropriations for salary and allowances for Chuuk State Legislature beyond the limits established under the 1995 Sauder vs Chuuk State Legislature that did not receive approval by a voter’s referendum are in violation of the Constitution.
- 2) That the amount of allowances received above the amount determined by the Chuuk State Supreme Court in the Sauder vs Chuuk State Legislature be paid back to the Chuuk State Treasury based on payment schedules established with the Chuuk State Director of Administrative Service.
- 3) That permanent injunctions against the member of the Chuuk State Legislature and the Chuuk State Governor be issued that would prevent them from interfering with the DAS’ execution of his duty to protect the State Treasury against “their appropriating and demanding disbursements of salaries and allowances beyond the limit set forth by the Chuuk State Constitution.”
- 4) ...any other relief that the Court deems just and proper.

Another “no”...

Fuminori Shirai, et al., filed Chuuk State Civil Action Number 27-2007 in order to collect approximately \$2.75 million that they said was owed to them under an agreement with the Chuuk State Government for a “Deed of Conveyance” for the land that is being used as the Chuuk State International Airport.

According to a court document, a motion to allow intervention was filed by Doone’s attorney. They argued that because Doone as the Director of Finance and Administration has a duty to protect the state treasury under the State’s Financial Management Act he therefore has a right to intervene in the case.

Doone’s attorney points to two factors that would allow him to intervene. The first is an “apparent collusion” between Fuminori

Shirai, et al., the plaintiffs, and the defendant, Chuuk State Government, in their execution of the Deed of Conveyance. The second is “the established record of the Chuuk State Government’s Office of the Attorney General in neglecting to defend the State’ (sic) interests in lawsuits involving land and monetary claims against the state.”

Attorney Asor in his filing quoted the findings of several previous cases over many years in which the Attorney General for Chuuk State was found by the Court to have defended Chuuk State’s interests less diligently than they should have.

The intervention that Doone asked for on case number 27-2007 says that the plaintiffs represent themselves to be the owners of four parcels of land that Chuuk State Land Commission maps show to cover an area of approximately 150,000 square meters.

The plaintiffs gave Chuuk State a fifteen year lease that covered the years 1984 through 1999. The lease was extended from 1999 to 2004 for an agreed rent of over \$1.5 million plus a 40% revenue-sharing right with the State from all improvements and fees generated on the leased premises.

According to court documents, on November 23, 2001, three years before the five-year extended lease was set to expire the plaintiffs and then Chuuk Governor Ansito Walter “decided to change the lease agreement into a land purchase agreement which they called a ‘Deed of Conveyance.’”

The agreed upon price of \$4.6 million was to have been paid in full by November 21, 2003 before Governor Walter was to leave office. There was no legal review or certification by the State Attorney General’s Office nor was there a fund availability certification issued by Chuuk State Department of Finance.

The total purchase price was to be supplemented by a 50% revenue-sharing agreement that would be in effect during the “pendency of the purchase.”

By way of background Doone’s filing says that during the entire fifteen year lease period as well as the five year extension the plaintiffs were also leasing part of the same properties they were leasing to Chuuk State also to Mr. Hersin Ruben and Ms Moria Ruben (Moria Store) and collecting rent on that lease. The document says that “the lease rate with the Rubens is significantly lower than what the plaintiffs charged the state for those same properties.”

“Also while the plaintiffs were collecting the purchase price from the state, they sold part of the same properties at a different price rate to another private business entity owned by a Mr. BJ Mori and his immediate family.”

The court document says that “as far as the Chuuk State Department of Finance could document, the state has paid about \$2 million dollars to the plaintiffs during the purchase agreement.”

The intervention motion said that there are several factual issues that must warrant the denial of the plaintiffs’ Motion for Summary Judgment in the case. The filing included an affidavit showing that the Rubens had just paid their rent on their lease for part of the land in question for the month of May, 2008.

The owners of the “Lei Side” business entity, also located on the land supposedly sold to the Chuuk State Government said that “they have already received their land certificate on that portion of land they purchased from the plaintiffs.”

The plaintiffs’ titled has been contested throughout the term of the lease agreement (*Enengeitaw Clan vs. Shirai*) in a case “now on appeal before the Chuuk State Supreme Court Appellate Division. That matter is still pending before the court.

The intervention says that summary judgment should also not be granted based on the Chuuk State Court’s standard land value. The court ruled in the case -Shinobu Poll v Chuuk State, that the Shinobu Poll lease for 15 years at a total rent of \$75,000 for the state to use the land for a water tank was “unconscionable”. Doone’s intervention says that the court needs to determine whether the plaintiffs’ cost of approximately \$30 per square meter along with a 40% to 50% revenue-sharing is “per se unconscionable” especially when the plaintiffs are also “selling parts of those same properties to other persons for a different rate and no revenue-sharing rights.”

“The plaintiff’s are also not entitled to judgment as a matter of law because their Deed of Conveyance or purchase agreement with the state is illegal...” Attorney Asor went on to say that former Governor Walter and the attorney for the plaintiff were relatives and “close political supporters of each other.” The filing said that the two “hurriedly changed a five-year lease agreement into a purchase agreement before expiration of the lease and for a significantly higher purchase price and revenue-sharing rate with no additional economic or legal justification.”

Doone through his lawyer suggests collusion, oppression and even fraud in the original agreement.

Chuuk State Supreme court has yet to enter a ruling on either case.

...Japan Embassy

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the two countries. Until recently, the Embassy in Pohnpei was under the umbrella of the Embassy in Suva, Fiji. It became an independent and full-fledged Embassy on January 1, 2008.

Prior to being appointed as Ambassador to the FSM, Mr. Sato served as Consul-General in Surabaya, Indonesia. Other previous posts include assignments in Zambia, Pakistan, Australia, and the USA.

The Embassy is pleased that its home government has come to the decision to appoint Mr. Sato as the first resident Ambassador to FSM and is confident that, with this accomplishment, the existing good relationship between the two countries will be further strengthened.

The Embassy extends its appreciation to the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia for supporting the appointment of a resident Japanese Ambassador and wishes to reiterate Japan’s commitment to a close working relationship with FSM Government based on mutual efforts and understanding.

Pohnpei Gender and Development Committee Hosts 4th Annual Camp GLOW

By *Amelia Kephart*
US Peace Corps Volunteer

After months of eager anticipation, planning, and fundraising, the 4th annual Camp GLOW (Girls Leading Our World) was held last week from June 11th to June 13th. Camp GLOW is sponsored by the Gender and Development (GAD) Committee. GAD is a group in which Peace Corps Volunteers, counterparts, and community members come together to talk about gender roles in order to increase the empowerment and gender awareness of men, women, boys, and girls in Pohnpei. Camp GLOW aims to educate female students and counterparts in critical local issues (such as coral reef protection and eating locally) and world issues (HIV/AIDS awareness), and to impart important leadership skills.



Fifty 8th grade girls and seven female counterparts from Palikir, RSP, Nett, Ohminie, and NMS Elementary Schools participated in this year's camp. The girls and local leaders benefited from interactive lectures by the Island Food Community of Pohnpei; the Conservation Society of Pohnpei; Melyann Mallarme from the Micronesian Red Cross; Dentist Marcela Galen; Cancer experts Xner Luther and Jennifer Saimon; Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS Awareness experts Mercedes Gilmete and Bertina Albert; and local leaders Senator Magdalena Watler, Principal Cynthia Saimon, Dr. Christine

Cruz, and Emeliana Musrasrik – all four of which participated in a Women's Panel discussion.

In addition to the stimulating information sessions, the girls enjoyed plenty of swimming, dancing, singing, and crafts. The girls left camp on Friday afternoon with a new T-shirt, a 50-page information booklet, a collection of new knowledge, and an invigorated spirit.

The GAD Committee would like to extend

a special thank you to all of the following generous donors who made Camp GLOW 2008 a success: The Village Hotel, Visual Impact, Kolonia Commercial Center/Perman's, College of Micronesia Pohnpei Campus, ACE Hardware & Family, Black Sand, Moylan's Insurance, A-One Souvenir Shop, Bank of Guam, Telecom, Best Buy, Amcres, and Senny's. An extra special thank you goes to the Micronesia Human Resource Development Center for the printing of the information booklet and to Nihco Marine Park for hosting Camp GLOW 2008.

Camp GLOW was an excellent opportunity for local girls to gain empowering knowledge that will help them to make positive life choices for years to come. With wonderful support from the local community, Camp GLOW continues to be successful. The GAD Committee looks forward to Camp GLOW 2009 – to be held next summer after elementary graduation.

\$59

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Letters to the Editor

“Soft landing” Made Happy Landing in Chuuk

Dear Editor,

Finally, the so-called “soft landing” did occur last Friday in Chuuk. Checks for former employees who lost their jobs through reduction-in-force (RIF) as part of the on-going reforms to put Chuuk State on the path to financial recovery, were distributed late in the day. It was reported that there was a long line of people at the Finance Office to receive their checks. It was indeed a happy day for Chuuk State particularly for those who had lost jobs to receive the long-awaited payments. Given its precarious situation, Chuuk State could use any good news, and this was indeed great news as a total of \$2.3 million will be paid out.

Without the combined efforts of President Mori who was in Chuuk for his last State Visit, and the Chuuk State leadership, the happy ending to an otherwise increasingly difficult and unpleasant situation would not have been possible. The President at the plenary meeting with Chuuk State leaders on Monday, June 9, demanded that the list be finalized for the last time. He was determined he was not going to leave Chuuk without the final list. Working all night long, staff of the National and State governments were able to hammer out the final list backed by necessary documentation on Tuesday, June 10, enabling the President to finally submit it to OIA the very next day.

Submitting the list was not the end of the

process for the President. In spite of a hectic schedule in Chuuk, he was constantly monitoring the situation by having staff call Pohnpei to make sure payment checks would be released that week as he had promised. Feeling the pain and frustration of those who lost jobs on account of the reforms, the President was not going to let anything stand in the way of success. His determination carried the day and made the payments possible last Friday.

In Chuuk the President was able to dispel all the rumors that he was the culprit holding the list hostage for his own purposes. The fact of the matter is that Chuuk State, given the difficult and unpopular task of developing a RIF list, was never able to finalize it because of political infighting. The list kept changing and was only partially done, making it impossible for the President to submit it to the U.S. Government until the State Visit to Chuuk.

The happy conclusion to an otherwise very difficult situation was only accomplished through the combined efforts of the National and State governments. But the strong leadership provided by the President must be acknowledged. Without it, it could not have been done. But, the Chuuk State leadership also deserves credit for doing its part in contributing to the solution in spite of much political pressure.

The Congress should also be commended

for approving the U.S. grant of \$2.3 million for Chuuk State, not only as a way to show its continued support for the reforms but to assist the nearly 400 affected employees transition from public employment to private lives.

Having successfully dealt with the difficult “soft landing” issue, the President is now

urging Chuuk State to utilize the annual savings that will be realized from the lay-offs, to pay down Chuuk State’s outstanding debts. Unless this is adhered to completely, Chuuk’s recovery from the financial mess that it’s in today will be further delayed, prolonging the suffering of the people.

Kasio E. Mida

Fruit Killers?

Dear Mr. Editor:

Sometime before noon of Thursday, June 12, 2008, personnel from PUC cut down 6 betel nut trees, 1 papaya tree and 1 pandanus tree. The betel nut trees and the papaya belonged to an adjacent landowner. The pandanus tree was on my land.

Unlike the betel nut trees and the papaya tree, whose tops and fronds were actually touching the power lines, the top of the pandanus tree was a good 6 feet or more below the lowest power line. And every branch on that pandanus tree also had a fruit head, expected to be ready for harvest and twisting delight around December, at which time its top will still be more than 6 feet below the power lines. As a matter of fact, it will take at least 4 years or more before the top of this pandanus tree can even reach the lowest power line.

When we first observed the fruit blossoms on the pandanus tree, my wife became really excited as she was the one who planted the tree. We had always anticipated that the tree would be eventually removed, but this time she was elated that the tree would give

us at least one harvest before it is cut down.

There are a few trees in my village, and many more around Pohnpei, whose tops are touching or growing into the power lines. A good example is the breadfruit tree standing between the Best Buy parking lot and the residence of Korean Kim. Tips of some branches on this tree are actually showing the burning effect of coming in contact with the power lines. Yet, this tree and its branches remain standing. So, I wonder if it is a policy of PUC to remove trees around power lines without first involving landowners, why then do it to some and not others. Such a policy, which rides roughshod over some and cringes from others, deserves ridicule.

But what really kills my innards through and through is the apparent absence of this sense of respect for people and property that is inherent in every Pohnpeian. Perhaps these PUC personnel who did this most inconsiderate work were not Pohnpeians after all.

Sincerely,

*Herson Anson
Landowner*

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Seen Any Good Movies Lately?



By **N.N. Isaac**
The Kaselehlie Press

Kung Fu Panda (2008)

When Oogway, a wizened tortoise Kung Fu master, foretells disaster for all in the Valley of Peace, the fate of everyone lies in the hands of the legendary Dragon Warrior. Instead of choosing one of the "Furious Five" prodigies at the Kung Fu school, Oogway selects an unlikely yet enthusiastic, binge-eating, noodle-making, starry-eyed, roly-poly panda named Po.

"Kung Fu Panda" is the latest production from CG powerhouse, DreamWorks Animation. "Panda" boasts a Hong Kong martial arts inspired style not seen before in American animations. Comedian Jack Black brings his special brand of mirth to Po's lovable girth and effortlessly endears viewers in the first few minutes of the film. Dustin Hoffman deftly delivers as the sober red panda Kung Fu master, Shifu. Dark and lethal is Tai Lung, the vengeful snow leopard, voiced by British actor Ian McShane. Angelina Jolie lends her voice as Tigress, the powerful leader of the Furious Five. Making up the rest of The Furious Five are Jackie Chan as Monkey, Seth Rogen as Mantis, Lucy Liu as Viper, and David Cross as Crane. Also starring are Randall Duk Kim (*The Matrix Reloaded*), Michael Clarke Duncan (*The Green Mile*), James Hong and Dan Fogler, both from the 2007 kung fu spoof *Balls of Fury*.

As a huge fan of Black, it's incredibly thrilling to see his particular comedic flair translated into an animation. His delivery of lines like "there is no charge for awesomeness...or attractiveness" and "skadoosh" makes you think that the writers had Black in mind when they created Po's character.

Another shiny facet of this great film is the beautiful choreography of the Furious Five: Monkey, Tiger, Crane, Mantis, and Viper. Each character's fighting style is taken from actual martial arts fighting methods modeled after their particular animals. Even Po employs the bear-style fighting of Kung Fu in his final battle with Tai Lung.

This superlatively satisfying movie is an absolute must-see not only for the whole family, but also for fans of action animations, comedy, and of course, Jack Black. This energetic and colorful CG movie is definitely worth watching on the big screen and promises to be a memorable experience when it finally hits theaters. As usual, DreamWorks left a little more bang for your buck at the end of the closing credits so don't rush out of the theater too soon or you'll miss it.

"Kung Fu Panda" is rated PG for sequences of martial arts action

The Other Boleyn Girl (2008)

At a time of great historic significance, Queen Catherine of Aragon has failed yet again to provide King Henry VIII of England with a male heir. Taking advantage of this opportune time, the Boleyn sisters are pranced in front of the dissatisfied sovereign in the hopes of attaining his bed and thereby securing their family's fortune and political standing.

Based on the best-selling novel by British author, Philippa Gregory, and a BBC television film, this movie gives audiences a "bedroom view" of one of the most pivotal points in British history.

Gregory's controversial novel mixes facts with sensationalized drama and creates a thrilling tale of ambition, romance, and betrayal. "Boleyn" is led by British director Justin Chadwick, and stars Natalie Portman as Anne Boleyn, and Scarlett Johansson as the "other Boleyn," Mary. Also starring are Eric Bana (*Troy*) as Henry VIII, as well as Kristin Scott Thomas, Mark Rylance, David Morrissey, and Jim Sturgess.

Despite its attractive and highly competent cast, "Boleyn" didn't fare well with critics and audiences overseas. The film's casting of an American (Johansson), an Israeli (Portman), and an Australian (Bana), in the roles of Britain's historical figures made for a chilly reception in the UK. Other critics thought its scandalous plot to be more soap opera-like rather than that of a historical drama.

Personally, I found Gregory's embellishment of the Boleyn sisters' affair with Henry VIII to be very creative and titillating. I also deeply enjoyed Portman's portrayal of the ambitious Anne. What I found hard to swallow was the notion that King Henry VIII could've looked anything remotely like the statuesque Hector from *Troy*. However, I suppose it wouldn't do to have two beauties fighting over someone who looked like Dom DeLuise (no offense to Mr. DeLuise...or the royal Tudor line).

"The Other Boleyn Girl" shouldn't be considered an epic historical movie like *Elizabeth*, or *Braveheart*. Instead, it's a sensual costume drama that manages to incorporate a quick history lesson while being sexy, engrossing, and entertaining at the same time.

"Boleyn" is rated PG-13 for mature thematic elements, sexual content, and some violent images.

Fool's Gold (2008)

Before the ink on their divorce papers has dried, treasure hunters Ben Finnegan and his estranged wife, Tess, reluctantly reunite to find an ancient Spanish fortune fabled to have sunk somewhere off the Florida Keys

called "The Queen's Dowry."

Directed by Andy Tennant (*Sweet Home Alabama*, *Hitch*, and *Ever After*), "Gold" brings back *How To Lose A Guy in 10 Days* co-stars, Matthew McConaughey and Kate Hudson, as Ben and Tess Finnegan. Also starring is Donald Sutherland, Alexis Dziena, Ewen Brenner, Kevin Hart, Ray Winstone, and Malcolm-Jamal Warner.

Despite a vast amount of negative reviews, I thoroughly enjoyed this quaint romantic adventure and found myself laughing heartily a scant five minutes into the film. Most of this movie's criticism came from a general annoyance with McConaughey's lack of a shirt throughout a majority of this movie. I somehow found the strength to

survive his gleaming pectorals and found this humorous adventure to be very entertaining and at times, downright hilarious.

If you enjoyed movies like *Romancing the Stone* and *National Treasure*, and if you think you can overcome the horror of Matthew McConaughey's unclothed torso, I strongly urge that you give "Fool's Gold" a try.

This movie is rated PG-13 for action violence, some sexual material, brief nudity, and language.

Happy viewing, and please remember to be kind, rewind, and watch for these great movies on DVD.

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Pohnpei Fishing Club Tournament Yields Monster Fish!



(June 8, 2008) - Sonny Sultan (above left) stands proudly next to his 117 pound Yellowfin Tuna caught aboard the boat of Kumer Panuelo. It's the second yellowfin of its size caught aboard Kumer's in the last 9 months.. Kumer caught the first one in September of 2007.

Konrad Englberger (in the hat in the picture to the left) caught a 367 pound marlin in the waters somewhere between Ant and Pakin. The marlin was hung for the sake of the picture. The fish was bigger than the scales could handle and had to be cut in half in order to be weighed. Englberger said that it took him around two hours to land the fish.

Astronomical Tide Prediction June 25 - July 8, 2008

	POHNPEI, KOSRAE		CHUUK	
Wednesday	25 Wed 12:18AM 1.6 06:42AM 3.4 01:40PM 1.0 08:03PM 2.7	02 Wed 02:24AM 4.4 09:35AM 0.3 03:17PM 2.3 08:17PM 0.9	25 Wed 04:52AM 1.8 01:10PM 0.2	02 Wed 01:37AM 2.5 10:36AM -0.6
Thursday	26 Thu 01:25AM 1.8 07:29AM 3.1 02:22PM 1.1 09:11PM 2.9	03 Thu 03:08AM 4.5 10:14AM 0.2 03:59PM 2.4 09:04PM 0.8	26 Thu 04:47AM 1.5 01:19PM 0.3	03 Thu 02:13AM 2.6 11:07AM -0.6
Friday	27 Fri 03:05AM 1.9 08:33AM 2.6 03:14PM 1.3 10:29PM 3.1	04 Fri 03:50AM 4.6 10:51AM 0.1 04:38PM 2.5 09:48PM 0.8	27 Fri 02:16AM 1.2 01:11PM 0.4 11:57PM 1.4	04 Fri 02:49AM 2.6 11:36AM -0.5
Saturday	28 Sat 05:18AM 1.8 10:14AM 2.3 04:17PM 1.3 11:43PM 3.4	05 Sat 04:30AM 4.5 11:26AM 0.2 05:16PM 2.6 10:32PM 0.9	28 Sat 12:06PM 0.3	05 Sat 03:20AM 2.5 12:01PM -0.3
Sunday	29 Sun 07:01AM 1.4 12:08PM 2.1 05:26PM 1.3	06 Sun 05:08AM 4.3 12:00PM 0.4 05:54PM 2.7 11:14PM 1.0	29 Sun 12:00AM 1.7 09:47AM 0.0	06 Sun 03:47AM 2.3 12:18PM -0.1 05:35PM 0.3 07:41PM 0.2
Monday	30 Mon 12:44AM 3.7 08:05AM 1.0 01:31PM 2.1 06:30PM 1.2	07 Mon 05:44AM 4.0 12:32PM 0.6 06:33PM 2.8 11:58PM 1.2	30 Mon 12:26AM 2.0 09:45AM -0.3	07 Mon 04:06AM 2.1 12:25PM 0.1 05:52PM 0.5 08:24PM 0.4
Tuesday	01 Tue 01:37AM 4.1 08:53AM 0.6 02:30PM 2.2 07:26PM 1.0	08 Tue 06:18AM 3.6 01:02PM 0.8 07:15PM 2.8	01 Tue 01:00AM 2.3 10:07AM -0.5	08 Tue 04:14AM 1.8 12:17PM 0.2 06:22PM 0.7 08:59PM 0.6



LOCATION
Gymnasium, COM-FSM Main Campus, Palikir

AGE GROUPS
8 - 12 years old 9:00 am - 12:00 noon (Mon-Fri)
13- 17 years old 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm (Mon-Fri)

HEAD COACH
Ryan Burns from Melbourne Australia

REGISTRATION
Registration forms available at the COM-FSM Sports and Recreation Office and FSMNOC Office

REGISTRATION DEADLINE
5:00 pm, Friday, July 04, 2008

INFORMATION
Telephone 320-2480 ext 159 and 320-8914

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Usury in Pohnpei

The law in Pohnpei says that the courts will not help anyone collect interest which is more than two percent (2%) per month if the loan or debt is less than \$300.00 or more than one percent (1%) per month if the debt is more than \$300.00.

Any person who is lending money and who is charging more than 2% per month interest is also breaking the law.

The court will consider "late charges" or "penalties" or "service charges" and similar items as being additional interest.

This advice is given courtesy of Micronesian Legal Services. Call us if you think that you have been charged too much interest for borrowing money or for a store debt.

Our numbers are 320 2404 and 320 3762. Our email is mlscpohnpei@mail.fm

Check out the MLSC web site at micronesianlegalservices.org

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The Rotary Club of Pohnpei wishes to announce that applications are available for the annual Rotary Club scholarships for the 2008-2009 school year. The Rotary Club awards up to \$1,000.00 per scholarship recipient, with at least two winners to be named. Last school year, \$5,000.00 in scholarships were awarded. The scholarship is for FSM citizens who will attend a college or university in school year 2008-2009. The scholarship judges review the applications for merit, activities, community involvement and need.

For those of you who are interested, the scholarship applications are available from any Rotary Club member, or by e-mail from finnen@mail.fm. The deadline for filing completed applications is July 1, 2008. Good luck to all scholars.

COMMUNITY BULLETIN

- Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Wednesday at Cantero Hall at the Roman Catholic Vicariate office at 7:00 p.m. Public welcome. For details, call 320-8365.
- Pohnpei Lions Club meets monthly every 4th Tuesday at Cliff Rainbow Restaurant at 6:30p.m. Public Welcome.
- The Christian Ministerial Association of Pohnpei meets the third Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in Cantero Hall at the Roman Catholic vicariate office.
- Devotions every Sunday 9:30 a.m. at the Bahai Center in Dolonier. For details, call 320-2182.
- Habitat for Humanity Pohnpei holds their meetings every Tuesday from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Sei Restaurant.
- Soccer practice/games at PICS field Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 5:30 p.m. Everyone welcome.
- The Rotary Club of Pohnpei holds its weekly meetings Thursdays at 12:15 p.m. at PCR Nantehlik.
- St John's Catholic Church in Kosrae conducts services every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. For further information, call 370-3240 or 370-3209.
- FANGO holds its monthly Issue Based Dialogue (IBD) on the last Wednesday of each Month at the Sei Restaurant at 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.. The public is welcome.
- The Rotary Club of Truk Lagoon holds its weekly meetings every Wednesday at 12:00 Noon at the Truk Stop Hotel Restaurant VIP Room. You are welcome to attend and can contact us at rotarycluboftruklagoon@yahoo.com

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

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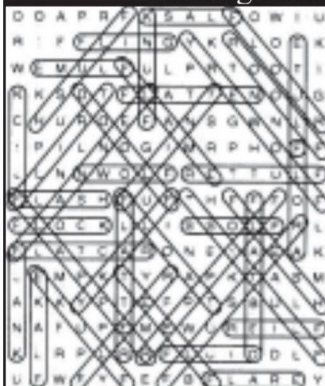
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IFCP Teaches "CHEEF" Benefits of Local Food at Camp GLOW

By *Dr. Lois Englberger*
Island Food Community of Pohnpei

On Wednesday June 11, at 5 pm, the Island Food Community of Pohnpei summer student intern team led by Gailliard Eliou, gave a presentation on the benefits of local foods to over 50 female Class Eight students from five elementary schools attending Camp GLOW, Girls Leading Our World.

Camp GLOW was a three-day camp at Nihco Marine Park, June 11 to June 13, led by the Pohnpei Gender and Development Committee. Designed to promote leadership, life skills and cultural preservation, the camp included activities on reproductive health, dental hygiene, conservation of the environment, cultural heritage, as well as nutrition.

Mr. Eliou pointed out the CHEEF benefits of local foods, which are Culture, Health, Economics, Environment, and Food Security. Nelvin Bartolome and Reedwin Edwin assisted in showing some Pohnpei banana varieties, including Karat, the State Banana of Pohnpei, Daiwang and Akadah, all which are rich in provitamin A carotenoids and have special health benefits.

The three Pohnpei local food posters on Bananas, Carotenoid-rich Foods (including giant swamp and seeded breadfruit), and Pandanus, were shown. One of these posters was printed in color and included in the Camp GLOW booklet provided for all participants. This poster shows that the orange- and yellow-fleshed bananas, including Utin Iap, Karat, Mangat, Daiwang and Akadah contain substantial amounts of beta-carotene, the most important provitamin A carotenoid.

An important message shown on this poster is that even the white-fleshed bananas contains some beta-carotene, but that RICE CONTAINS NONE!

The IFCP team explained that all varieties of bananas contain a mood-enhancing substance which helps people to be happy.

The IFCP team included also Mihne Pretrick, Kathay Larsen, Dr. Lois Englberger and the



Gailliard Eliou of the Island Food Community of Pohnpei teaches about the "CHEEF" benefits of local foods at Camp GLOW, held at Nihco Park June 11-13, 2008, led by the Pohnpei Gender and Development Committee.

two visiting Emory University students Blanche Greene-Kramer and Stephanie Clayton.

Thanks are given to the New Zealand Embassy, Secretariat of the Pacific Community Land Resources Division and GEF Small Grant Program for funding support and to the Camp GLOW team for the opportunity to participate in their program.

Highly Valued Aspwerik Pandanus of Pingelap is at the Pilot Farm

A collection of 14 pandanus varieties, collected mainly from Mwoakilloa and Pingelap, has been established at the Pilot Farm in Pohlengas, including a highly valued variety known as Aspwerik by Pingelapese. It is now bearing fruit, as shown in the photo.

The Pingelapese-named Aspwerik is one of the 13 pandanus varieties documented in a visit to Pingelap in 2007, which included documentation and collection of planting material of giant swamp taro and pandanus.

Aspwerik is known as the best variety for its pulp. Information on recipes and planting material can be obtained from Pohnpei Agriculture or IFCP.

This is a collaborative project of Pohnpei Agriculture of the Office of Economic Affairs and the Island Food Community of Pohnpei, as started in 2003. In addition to the pandanus collection, there are two collections of over 60 giant swamp taro and 25 banana varieties.



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MICRONESIA CHALLENGE

INTERNSHIP

Internship Goals

1. To build the next generation of conservation leaders (Champions) in Micronesia
2. To promote the goals of the MC and PANs to every resident of the region

Champions will be responsible for:

1. Participating in the development of a robust and exciting region-wide outreach and awareness program (i.e. social marketing) to promote the goals and gain local support and participation for the Micronesia Challenge and the Protected Areas Network;
2. Participating in regular, informal local and regional-level consultations and projects to help gain consensus on implementation of the Challenge;
3. Participating in a uniquely designed professional development program to advance their conservation and leadership skills;
4. Documenting and sharing lessons learned from the process in each of the island jurisdictions to perpetuate adaptive learning, improved site conservation and to challenge other regions to develop protected areas networks and/or similar initiatives to the Challenge.

\$5,000 SCHOLARSHIP

Each Champion will receive **\$5,000** to cover costs of MC related activities and tuition, one laptop and funded travel for workshops/trainings.

OVERVIEW

The Micronesia Challenge

Recognizing the growing threats to Micronesia's natural resources, the region's heads of government launched the Micronesia Challenge, which aims to effectively conserve 30% of near-shore marine resources and 20% of terrestrial resources by 2020. This ambitious challenge far exceeds current goals set by international conventions and treaties, which call for countries to conserve 10% of marine and terrestrial resources by 2012. The challenge also emphasizes the need for Micronesian leaders, conservation practitioners, private partners and local communities to work together at the regional level to confront environmental and sustainable development issues.

The Protected Areas Network (PANs's) and Conservation "Champions"

In order to assist with the implementation of resilient networks of protected areas and other effective conservation strategies toward achieving the goals set by the Micronesia Challenge, we are seeking to place and support conservation "champions" in each of the five (5) island jurisdictions to assist with outreach and education of the Micronesia Challenge (MC). This includes coordination with the MC Coordinator, MC Communications Specialist, the MC Focal Points, PAN Coordinators, and all MC partners. These champions will be housed in focal point organizations or agencies within each island jurisdiction. Champions will be mentored by Mr. Kostka, a Pew Fellow and Executive Director of the Micronesia Conservation Trust, PAN Coordinators and senior staff from each focal point agencies. The mentors will assist the champions in developing professional development plans.

Micronesia Challenge Outreach and Education Program

The success of the Micronesia Challenge will depend highly on the support of all of Micronesia's residents and the participation of key groups. The MC Champions will lead the design and implementation of a vibrant and comprehensive MC Outreach and Education Program that will bring the Micronesia Challenge message to every home in Micronesia and will gain the participation of key groups around the region.



ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

1. Must be a citizen and/or permanent resident of Micronesia;
2. Must be a self starter and requires minimum supervision;
3. Must be currently enrolled in a college/university and/or recent college graduate;
4. Must be between the ages of 17-25;
5. Must be passionate about and dedicated to ensuring the well being of Micronesians and its unique and vital natural landscapes and resources;
6. Must be able to coordinate and speak at public forums and community meetings; and
7. Must be willing to travel, attend designed workshops for this internship and other relevant learning exchanges.

PREFERRED

- Excellent command of both written and spoken local language of his/her island jurisdiction;
- Excellent command of both written and spoken English;
- Comfortable with MS Office programs (e.g. Word, Powerpoint, Excel etc.)

SUBMISSION of APPLICATIONS

All applicants must submit the following:

1. A Letter of Interest (LOI) addressed to **Willy Kostka**, Executive Director of the Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT), explaining why the candidate wants to participate in the internship, why they feel they are the best candidate for this internship and how this internship is going to help them advance their studies and future career(s). LOIs should not exceed 1 page.
2. A support letter from an instructor/advisor.
3. A Curriculum Vitae (CV)
4. List of 3 references and their contact information (i.e. telephone number or email).

Applications and questions may be emailed to:

mctdirector@mail.fm and
sayuri_holman@yahoo.ca

We strongly encourage and would prefer email, but will accept faxed or mailed applications. If email or fax is not available please mail applications to:

Willy Kostka
The Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT)
P.O. Box 2177
Kolonia, FM 96941
Telephone: 691-320-5670
Fax: 691-320-8903

SELECTION OF APPLICANTS

Candidates will be evaluated based on their Letter of Interest, Letters of Support/References and through individual interviews with applicants.