



# Japan provided gymnasium officially open for multi-purpose use

Bill Jaynes  
The Kaselehlie Press

December 3, 2018

Pohnpei—Through its Grass Roots Human Security Projects fund, the government of Japan has provided a brand new gymnasium to Nett Elementary School, the largest elementary school on the island. This morning, students, community members, government leaders and other dignitaries gathered for a ribbon cutting ceremony at the recently completed gym.

Though this year marks 30 years of diplomatic relations between the FSM and Japan, Ambassador Ryoichi Horie deferred his remarks on the history of the relations to the two page spread that was on the newsstands at the time. Instead, he and his wife, Yuko stunned the audience with a surprising vocal rendition of “Somewhere Over the Rainbow” with Ambassador Horie accompanying the duet on guitar.

The signing ceremony for the \$250,000 project was held on March 10, 2017 with Japan providing \$180,970 as a grant and the FSM Congress providing the remainder. The ground breaking ceremony for the gym construction was held on June 16, 2017. Black Sand Construction Company was the contractor for the project.

Following an opening prayer at the ribbon cutting ceremony by

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## Parisi fled FSM jurisdiction now the subject of international law enforcement dragnet

By Bill Jaynes  
The Kaselehlie Press

December 3, 2018

Pohnpei—The hunt is on for Joe Parisi, an American who has apparently fled the FSM. On February 8, 2017, the FSM government charged Joe Parisi, an American with 13 counts related to human

trafficking. He was initially jailed based on those charges but later released on the basis of conditions of release pending trial, which is still in the stage of court motions.

However, since then, the FSM received witness statements accusing him of, among other things,

See “Parisi” on page 5



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# IOM restores antenna system in Pohnpei Disaster Coordination Building

*The International Organization for Migration (IOM)*

Strong winds had recently damaged the HF (high-frequency) and VHF (very high-frequency) radio antenna installed in the Pohnpei Disaster Coordination Building and disabled communications to the outer and main islands of Pohnpei. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) was approached by the Department of Public Safety to help restore the system, and thanks to the generous funding of USAID, was able to quickly respond to this request.

IOM began by surveying the damage, and with the help of the Pohnpei Division of Fire & Emergency Services (PDFES) in the Department of Public Safety, selected a local vendor who would be responsible for re-erecting and rust-proofing the antenna mast. IOM also supervised the painting of the antenna with white and red segments in order to increase its visibility for aircraft. The radios were then relocated to a designated area to allow for more effective communication. IOM took the lead and connected the system to a back-up battery to continue operations during unexpected power failures.

Mr. Patrick Carl, Chief of PDFES, as well as Pohnpei State's Disaster Coordination Officer, explained that the broadcasting range of the radios had increased from 5 miles to over 20 miles. He added that he looked forward to further increasing the range of the radios by placing repeaters on Ant Atoll, and thanked IOM for their support.

At the end of the project, PDFES and DECEM carried out a successful radio communication to ensure that the system was functional. Thanks to the combined efforts of IOM, DECEM, PDFES and USAID,

communication to the outer islands through HF radio and to the main island of Pohnpei with VHF radio has been restored, and PDFES can now coordinate more effectively during a national disaster or a rescue mission.



# Children across the Pacific islands "takeover" in a sea of blue on World Children's Day

*UNICEF*

*20 November 2018*

**SUVA** – Today across the Pacific islands, children united to "takeover" and raise their voices on issues that matter to them. Joining the millions of children around the world on World Children's Day, children from Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Tonga and the Federated States Micronesia, joined parliamentarians, Ministries and communities to 'go blue' for children everywhere.

World Children's Day – celebrated on 20th November – is a global day of action 'for children, by children' to raise awareness and funds for the millions of children that are unschooled, unprotected and uprooted. UNICEF is inviting the public to go online and sign a global petition asking leaders to commit to fulfilling the rights of every child now and for future generations, so that every child is in school, safe from harm and can fulfil their potential.

As part of the day, UNICEF is asking supporters to raise their voices in solidarity with the most disadvantaged and vulnerable children by helping 'turn the world blue.'

"World Children's Day is more than a day to celebrate children everywhere. It is an annual opportunity to recommit ourselves to protecting the rights of every child – in the Pacific and throughout the world," UNICEF Pacific Representative, Sheldon Yett, said. "The current and potential well-being of all societies depends not only on how these rights are recognized but also on how they are acted upon."

Across the Pacific islands, there are several events taking place:

- In Fiji, more than 300 students

at Stella Maris Primary school hosted UNICEF and the Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts, as well as community members, for a student-led assembly. The winners of the Fiji superhero comic contest to end violence in schools were announced: First place CMF Primary School student, Lusyel Rayawa Vuataku, 13 years, with her superhero "Tarmahqu Man (father)," Second place Holy Trinity Anglican School student, Viliame Uate Morrell with his superhero "Mindreader" and in third place Yat Sen School student, Chantelle Choo, 13 years, with "The Blur";

- In Vanuatu, UNICEF and the Ministry of Education will join 1,200 Vila North School students on 21 November to help end violence around the world with a focus on bullying in schools in a child-led advocacy event within the Speech Day Programme;

- In Solomon Islands, a community event was held in Visale with primary school and secondary students, together with the Ministry of Health. The "First 1000 Days" national campaign was launched. School students and community members saw themselves on the big screen, teaching others about healthy eating and good hygiene;

- In the Federated States of Micronesia, youth have written, produced and filmed a song to world leaders, calling on them to take action to achieve peace for children around the world. They went live on air today singing on radio Pohnpei Broadcasting Service.

- In Kiribati on 21 November, children will "takeover" the Parliament to present President Taneti Mamau with the global petition to sign;

- In Tonga, youth are gearing up to "takeover" Parliament in the first ever youth parliament held in the country

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Bill Jaynes  
Managing Editor

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# COM-FSM club holds the first ever LGBTQ+ Pride Walk in Pohnpei

By Bill Jaynes  
The Kaselehlie Press

December 4, 2018

**Pohnpei**—On Saturday, December 1, the officially sanctioned LGBTQ+ club of the College of Micronesia FSM held a Pride Walk at the Pohnpei Islands Central School track. It was the first of its kind in the FSM.

LGBTQ+ stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and other identifications.

People from all walks of life participated in the walk. The crowd was small but even that small crowd exceeded the group’s expectations for the event. “There wasn’t a single drop of negativity there,” said Grace Corcoran, a COM-FSM student from Australia who was one of the organizers of the event. “We are really grateful to all of the people who did come to show their support for the human rights of people who identify differently.”

The club started during the current semester with help from a COM instructor who identifies as gay. It was initially intended to be a small support group for people on campus who came together to support each other in their struggles for self-acceptance in a world where many are afraid of them. Members of the club said that COM-FSM President Joseph Daisy approached them and asked them if they’d like to become a sanctioned club of the College of Micronesia FSM.

The club currently has 10 members, some of whom identify as LGBTQ+ and others who do not but who want to stand with them in solidarity and to support them. It has two faculty advisers and an assistant adviser. Discussions during the bi-weekly meetings and who identifies as what are strictly confidential. That confidentiality is important to the members. “Frankly, it’s not anyone’s business how I identify,” said Ardy, co-founder of the club.

Catch-phrases like, “God created Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve”, a phrase that appears to have first showed up on a protester’s placard in the US sometime in 1977, long before any of the members of the club who identify as LGBTQ+ were born, have haunted their young lives for as long as they can remember.

“It’s hard ‘coming out’ here,” Ardy said. “We’re not trying to convert anyone. We just want people who may be having problems to know that there is a support group available for people who struggle with self-acceptance of their sexual identities and the judgment they face every day.”

The club is open to anyone.

Ardy, who is from Kosrae spoke of his continuing devotion to the church that he grew up attending. “I felt like I had to do good works.” He said

that he often skipped lunch at school and brought his lunch money to the church because he wanted to go to heaven.

“Most people don’t know the hardships people like me face.” With tears in his eyes he said that when he was growing up it was hard to hear the message, “God loves you unless you’re different.” He still attends church but he has accepted himself regardless of the messages of condemnation.

Unlike Ardy, for the most part, Destiny of Pohnpei has cut ties with the church. She said she was always told at the church school where she attended that she could be whoever she wanted to be and that she should dream big but “not that! Don’t go there,” she said. But “there” was where she already was, so she boxed up the rejection and struggled on until she got out of secondary school. She also teared up while telling her story of the stigma she faces for being perceived as different from others. She has always been a social person and that has not changed. She participates in many groups at the college and says that the LGBTQ+ has helped her to accept herself.

Melba of Kosrae said that when she was growing up she couldn’t accept herself for fear that she would disappoint her family members. That fear has only recently begun to be relieved. She said that she was amazed at how hateful people can be toward others who are different from them, even ones that she loves and who say that they love her.

She said that after joining the club she “came out” to her brother. She expected to be rejected but she said that her brother said that he had suspected but that he loved her whether she was “bi-sexual” or “straight”. She could not have been more surprised or affirmed. It was his reaction that has given her more courage to talk about what she’s been through in her mind as she has struggled with what others wanted her to be and who she felt that she was.

She said that her mother’s mind began to change after she relocated and gained friends who identified as LGBTQ. Still, Melba felt that he mother thought that while it was okay for her friends, it wasn’t okay for her daughter. Melba was pleased to say that her relationship with her mother is healing and that she has begun to feel some acceptance from her.

Grace, a student from Australia said that she joined the group to stand in solidarity with students who were dealing with their differences. She had heard hurtful homophobic comments on campus and she had empathy for the students that had to deal with that type of discrimination on an everyday basis. She joined the group to be their ally; to let them know that someone would stand with them.

She and others said that the Pride Walk was an act of courage for some of the members and others.

“It’s hard to stand up when all your life you’ve been told to sit down,” Ardy said. But stand up they did in a courageous act of pride for who they are at the Pride Walk last Saturday.

They thanked Postmaster Ginger Mida and her family, Marstella Jack and many others for their support.



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**Deadline for submission of articles or advertisements for this issue is the end of working hours on: Wednesday, December 19, 2018**



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## PNA CEO emphasizes PNA-FFA collaboration for WCPFC

December 3, 2018

**Honolulu** — Following the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) officials session Sunday, the Forum Fisheries Agency opened its four-day briefing Monday in Honolulu for fisheries officials in preparation for the upcoming Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission annual meeting.

At the opening session for officials from the 17 member Pacific islands, FFA Director General Manu Tupou-Roosen welcomed PNA CEO Ludwig Kumoru and PNA Office staff participation in briefing session.

“The PNA officials session Sunday and this week’s FFA briefing is an important part of our commitment to ensuring sustainable management of the fishery in the Pacific,” said PNA CEO Ludwig Kumoru. He recognized Dr. Tupou-Roosen for ongoing collaboration between the FFA and PNA on the wide-array of fisheries management issues on which Pacific islands are engaged.

Mr. Kumoru made the point that these briefing sessions are essential for fisheries officials from the islands to effectively advocate for measures promoting sustainable management of fish stocks at the WCPFC. Mr. Kumoru noted, too, that the briefing sessions provide for discussion of the layers of detail that go into developing proposals and positions for “best practice” governance in the fishery.

“The FFA Director General reminded us that we are doing this work for the benefit

of our people,” said Mr. Kumoru. “We are the resource owners. This is why we work together to promote effective measures at the WCPFC for sustainable management of our fisheries resources.”

Mr. Kumoru emphasized that ensuring tuna stocks remain healthy for the long term is the highest priority of the islands. This requires ongoing and effective conservation measures on both the high seas and in the exclusive economic zones of the islands, he said. “This is why the PNA and the FFA put so much effort into preparing for the WCPFC,” said Mr. Kumoru.

While zone-based management has been effective in maintaining purse seine fishing at sustainable levels, there continue to be challenges with the management of the longline sector, including on the high seas that need to be addressed by the WCPFC to ensure sustainable management of all tuna stocks, he said.

“There are many management issues we are working through this week in preparation for next week’s WCPFC annual meeting,” Mr. Kumoru said. “PNA members are part of the FFA membership. PNA may emphasize some issues over others, but we are on the same page with the FFA going into the WCPFC.”

The WCPFC annual meeting opens Monday December 10 and continues through Friday December 14 at the Hawaii Convention Center in Honolulu.

## PNA: Rights-based management works in the Pacific

**Majuro 25 November 2018** — With next month’s annual meeting of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) facing numerous challenges and opportunities to improve fisheries management, the head of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) said the foundation of success in the region is “rights-based management” that has been implemented by Pacific islands.

“The Western and Central Pacific has the healthiest tuna stocks in the world,” said PNA CEO Ludwig Kumoru. “This is primarily because of initiatives by members of PNA and the Forum Fisheries Agency to properly manage and conserve tuna stocks.”

Efforts by distant water fishing nations to turn back the clock by increasing flag state control over the tuna fishery is not acceptable to PNA, Mr. Kumoru said.

“Why should we do what regional fisheries management organizations have done in other parts of the world?” he asked. “They are not effective and fish stocks in most fisheries in the world are being over-fished as a result. But not in the Western Pacific where we have implemented numerous conservation and management mechanisms for the purse seine fishery that continue to prove successful.”

Mr. Kumoru said that for coastal states in the region, two key issues underpinning

fisheries management are rights-based control of the fishery and participation of the islands in all areas of the fishery, both in 200-mile exclusive economic zones (EEZs) and on the high seas.

The WCPFC is primarily focused on managing tuna fishing on the high seas. It meets in Honolulu from December 10-14.

Mr. Kumoru said a priority of the WCPFC annual meeting next month is to gain agreement for a new tropical tuna measure to replace the management measure that expires December 31. PNA has joined with the FFA in endorsing a proposed measure that is already the subject of ongoing discussion and negotiation among WCPFC members.

Mr. Kumoru made the point that what needs to happen on the high seas is the same as what PNA has implemented in its members’ EEZs: set a limit on the number of fishing days and allocate days that, like in the PNA Vessel Day Scheme, can be used or traded. The VDS has controlled fishing in-zone, maintaining tuna stocks in a healthy state, he said.

“The allocation of fishing effort on the high seas must be for all members, not based on historical catch records,” said Mr. Kumoru. “Some members don’t have a history of fishing on the high seas but have an interest in fishing there. It’s not fair to lock out the islands for having no catch history on the

high seas.”

The effort levels set for fishing on the high seas need to be based on the status of the stocks, he said, adding that each member should receive a portion of “allowable effort.” “How you use your allocation is up to you,” he said. “Use it or trade it. But when the limit is reach, the high seas must be closed.”

This is the model followed in PNA zones and it works as confirmed by ongoing stock assessments that show tuna remains at healthy levels, Mr. Kumoru said.

Other important issues for PNA at next month’s WCPFC annual meeting include:

- PNA opposes expanding membership in the WCPFC. Mr. Kumoru noted that there is increasing pressure to accept some “Cooperating Non-Members” into full membership with the Commission. But PNA members have always considered WCPFC to be a closed Commission and that new members could only join by invitation and consensus. The majority of current members are small island developing states that are highly dependent on these fishery resources — and in whose waters most of the fish is caught, he said, adding that allowing more countries outside the region to join as members would further weight the Commission against the interests of the islands.

- The PNA CEO rejected calls by some non-government organizations (NGOs) and fishing states for the WCPFC to follow approaches to fish aggregating device (FAD) management used in other fisheries. Mr. Kumoru said in the Western and Central Pacific, where fishing on FADs is well controlled, most of the purse seine catch comes from fishing on free schools. All the major tropical tuna stocks in this region are in the “green” because they are being fished sustainably. In other ocean regions where purse seine fisheries are allowed to use FADs more heavily, most of the bigeye and yellowfin stocks are in trouble. This difference was largely because WCPFC’s focus, led by PNA, has been to reduce FAD fishing through well monitored and enforced FAD closures, in contrast to the apparent focus of NGOs and others which seems to be on data collection as a proxy for management. These arrangements have been backed up by the comprehensive PNA FAD tracking program, which is the world’s only region-wide program of its kind. PNA is working to strengthen FAD management in PNA waters and throughout the Western and Central Pacific fishery “by doing what works for us,” said Mr. Kumoru.



## ...Nett Gym

*Continued from front page*

Deacon Santiago, the eighth graders performed the Nett hymn.

Nett District Administrator Iriarte gave opening remarks, thanking the government of Japan for their generosity in helping the FSM. He said that he felt a bit like a poor man at a rich man's party, but that despite the economic differences between the two countries, both countries stand for the same principles of democracy. He said that in the government's efforts to provide proper infrastructure for the people with few resources it is good to know that Japan is such a good and generous friend to the FSM. He intimated that he may be making further requests in the future.

Following his welcoming remarks, the Nett School choir, guided by a Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Volunteer, performed a Japanese song on the theme of appreciation. They beat traditional Japanese drums and played melodicas, the breath powered keyboard instrument, during the performance.

After Ambassador Horie's speech, FSM

First Lady Maurina Christian, Madam Yuko Horie, and Mrs. Agnes Iriarte cut the ceremonial ribbon for the new gymnasium.

Governor Peterson presented remarks on the friendship between Japan, the FSM, and Pohnpei State in particular. After the blessing of the facility by Deacon Santiago, the Iso Nahnken of Nett gave his mahsen/closing remarks.

According to a press release by FSM Information Services, having a gymnasium for Nett Elementary School and the broader Nett community has long been a dream for Principal Loyola, who plans to retire by the end of this academic year. The gymnasium is the latest in a series of recent developments at the school over the past several years, which include a new computer lab, a protective fence, awnings to protect students from rain, and a communal lunch area.

In a press release from the Embassy of Japan after the grant contract signing ceremony in 2017, the purpose for the gym was laid out. "Nett Elementary School has physical education classes for improving mental and physical health, and preventing a lifestyle-related disease for students. However, this school has only an outside playground so that unfortunately the classes are often cancelled by heavy rains. Therefore, the provided gymnasium expects to help to conduct the classes regularly and safely which would improve education and health for 897 students and 18 teachers at Nett Elementary School," it said.

The gym will also be open to the public when not in use by the school.

In addition to the speakers already mentioned, FSM President Peter Christian, Honorable Esmond B. Moses, Vice Speaker for the FSM Congress, Arwelson Arpona, Acting Director of Pohnpei Department of Education, Primo Loyola, Principal of Nett Elementary School, and other distinguished guests attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Nett Gymnasium.



## ...Parisi

*Continued from front page*

paying for sex with a minor and also for buying drinks for a female who was under the legal drinking age of 21. The Department of Justice filed a motion to revoke Parisi's bail for violation of the release conditions. He was due to appear at a hearing on that matter on November 27, but he never showed up. No one had seen or heard from him for some days.

The hearing continued in his absence but Chief Justice Yamase did not issue an order to revoke bail.

Meanwhile, on November 30, the Pohnpei Supreme Court issued a warrant to arrest Joe Parisi based on charges brought by the Pohnpei State Government on charges of pandering, prostitution, and providing alcohol to a minor. More charges may yet be forthcoming. When he could not be found, the Attorney General's office printed wanted posters and distributed them to all of Pohnpei's law enforcement entities.

But Joe Parisi is no longer on the island and he now will face additional criminal charges of "flight" and "bail jumping" at the National Government. He was

spotted in Manila, Philippines but may have continued his flight from there. He is now being sought by the FSM Department of Justice, FBI, Interpol, Homeland Security and even Italian law enforcement entities in a cooperative law enforcement effort. Though at press time he had not yet been found, the net has tightened with authorities having frozen his financial assets and flags placed on any legitimate passports he may hold which will severely limit his ability to travel.

A DOJ source says that when he is found he will be extradited to the FSM. They say they are confident that he will be found.

At press time it was unclear how Parisi managed to get off island when his passport was being held by the court. Parisi has dual citizenship in the United States and Italy.

One fishing company owner said that he had heard a rumor that Parisi had asked a few of his vessel captains to transport him. He said that when he heard that rumor, whether it was true or not, he gave instructions to his crews that they should not even consider the possibility of transporting him against the law.

No charges have currently been filed against anyone else in the flight of Joe Parisi, but FSM National Police are

investigating how he left the island and if he was assisted in any way, and charges may yet be filed.

## Dive enthusiasts give Yap resort top honors

**Colonia, Yap-** The divers have voted. Yap's Manta Ray Bay Resort and Yap Divers has been elected to receive two awards for being among their favorite dive resorts in the world.

The first is from DIVE magazine. Out of 461 diver centers and resorts, MRBR has been chosen as one of the top 26 across the globe. "We ended up with Top 26 going through to the vote as two dive centres tied for 25th place," according to the popular UK-based magazine. "We are honored to be the only resort in Micronesia to receive this award and to be among such a stellar group of resorts and dive centers," said Bill Acker, founder of MBRB, a small, family-owned, luxury hotel and restaurant in business since 1986.

The other vote of confidence is from Scuba Diving magazine's

readers' choice awards that placed the resort in fifth place for dive resorts in the Pacific/Indian Ocean/Red Sea category. Every year, "thousands of dive enthusiasts vote on their favorite dive destinations, operators, liveaboards, resorts, sites and more," notes the magazine.

"Neither of these awards would have happened without our staff who always give a warm welcome and great service to all of our guests," added Acker.

*Manta Ray Bay Resort & Yap Divers*





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# Japan Embassy in the FSM hosts last official celebration of Emperor Akahito's birthday

By Bill Jaynes  
The Kaselehlie Press

November 29, 2018

**Pohnpei**—Japan's Ambassador Ryoichi Horie and his wife Yuko hosted a reception at their home in Nanpohnmal in celebration of Japan's National Day, a day to celebrate the birthday of Emperor Akahito who will be 85 on December 23. During his speech, Ambassador Horie reminded the dignitaries and invited guests that the celebration would be the last time to celebrate the birthday of Emperor Akahito as he will be abdicating on April 30 of next year and His Imperial Highness, the Crown Prince Naruhito will ascend to the throne on the following day.

The reception was beautifully decorated by highly talented Madam Yuko Horie in "Ikebana style" with flowers provided by Ichiko Vitt and Ringlen Wolphagen.

The national day celebration in the FSM was more than a celebration of the birthday of the Emperor, it was also a celebration of 30 years of diplomatic relations between the FSM and Japan.

During his speech, Ambassador Horie spoke of the many accomplishments and agreements between the FSM and Japan and also of Japan's contributions to the FSM including the more than 100

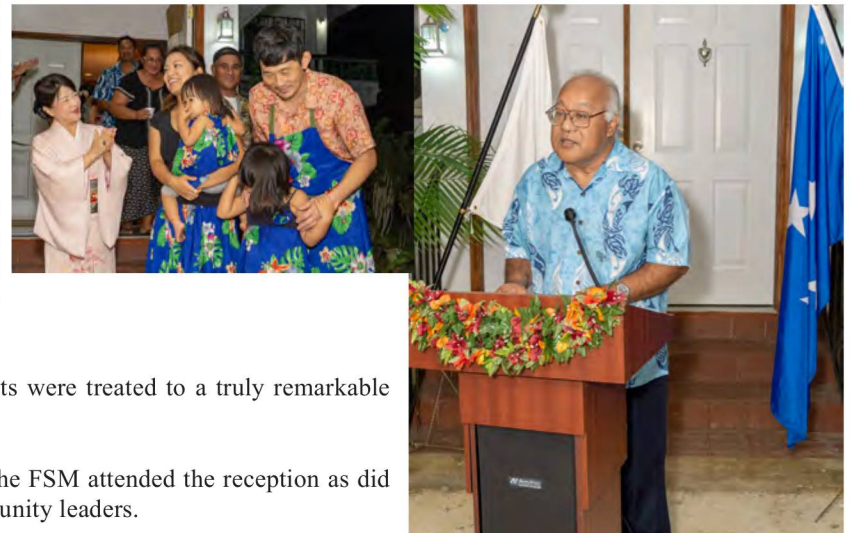
Japanese companies with captive insurance and other companies who pay corporate tax in the FSM. He spoke of successful cultural people to people exchanges between the two countries as well as demonstrations of Japanese culture through visits of Japanese performers to the FSM. He spoke of the educational exchanges and mentioned that FSM President Christian, who was not in attendance at the reception, received an honorary Doctorate from Osaka Gakuin University.

"For the last three decades, our two countries have enjoyed very close and friendly relationships, sharing the common values such as democracy, fundamental freedom and rule of law. We have deepened and expanded our cooperative relations in various fields such as investment, trade, economic cooperation, culture, academic exchange and tourism. The latest edition of Kaselehlie Press is carrying the messages from the President of the FSM and the Prime Minister of Japan together with some photos," he said.

Secretary for Foreign Affairs Lorin Robert represented the FSM at the reception and spoke of 30 years of friendship between the countries and thanked Japan for its many contributions to the FSM.

After the formalities were completed, the guests were treated to a truly remarkable dinner prepared by the Ambassadors chef.

The Ambassadors of the Diplomatic Corps to the FSM attended the reception as did many FSM and Pohnpei government and community leaders.



# Joint UN Statement on International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

*Statement by the Heads of UN agencies, UNFPA, UNDP, UNICEF and UN WOMEN, calling for solidarity with survivors and survivor advocates and women's human rights defenders who are working to prevent and end violence against women and girls.*

25 November, 2018

To commemorate this year's International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, the Secretary-General's UNiTE Campaign is calling upon us to stand in solidarity with survivors and survivor advocates and women's human rights defenders who are working to prevent and end violence against women and girls. Our duty is not only to stand in solidarity with them but also to intensify our efforts to find solutions and measures to stop this preventable global scourge with a detrimental impact on women's and girls' lives and health.

The last year has been extraordinary in terms of the awareness

that has been raised on the extent and magnitude of the different forms of violence inflicted on women and girls. The #MeToo campaign—one of the most viral and powerful social movements of recent times—has brought this issue into the spotlight. This awareness has been further reinforced by the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize in 2018 to two remarkable activists, Nadia Murad and Denis Mukwege, who work on ending violence against women in conflict situations.

More than a third of women worldwide have experienced either physical or sexual violence at some point in their lives. Furthermore, research indicates that the cost of violence against women could amount annually to around 2 per cent of global gross domestic product (GDP). This is equivalent to 1.5 trillion dollars.

Beyond raising awareness, governments, the private sector, the artistic community, civil society organizations, academia and engaged citizens are again looking into new ways to urgently address

this global scourge.

For more than 20 years, the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women has been investing in national and local initiatives that translate policy promises into concrete benefits for women and girls, and contribute to the prevention of violence in the long run.

As part of the Spotlight Initiative to end violence against women and girls, a global, multi-year partnership between the United Nations and the European Union, we are working with different partners to increase the scale and level of ambition of our interventions. We understand that reducing and preventing violence against women is transformational: it improves the health of women and children, reduces risks of acquiring HIV and sexually transmitted infections (STIs), improves economic productivity and educational attainment, and reduces the risks of mental illness and substance abuse, among other benefits.

Through the Spotlight Initiative, our agencies are mobilizing an array of

stakeholders to address both the root causes of violence as well as its most immediate consequences. In line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the initiative fully integrates the principle of leaving no one behind. Spotlight will also build on existing good practices and evidence-based programming, as well as incorporate new solutions for accelerated results.

The UN family is working tirelessly with our partners to strengthen legal frameworks and institutions, to improve services for survivors, and to address the root causes of violence by challenging social norms and behaviours and tackling the wider gender inequalities. Ending violence against women and girls is not a short-term endeavor. It requires coordinated and sustained efforts from all of us. Showing that these efforts yield results is the best tribute to survivors and the survivor advocates and women's human rights defenders that we are celebrating today.



## VOLUNTEERS BUILD RESILIENT COMMUNITIES



International Volunteer Day (IVD), celebrated annually on December 5, is a day established by the United Nations in 1985 to encourage global recognition and celebration of volunteers and the contributions they make to international development. This year's campaign focuses on how "Volunteers build resilient communities", in appreciation of volunteers who build strength in communities. Community resilience is a key part of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), global goals that seek to reduce poverty, improve equality and mitigate climate change by 2030. IVD provides a valuable opportunity to recognize the contribution and impact of skilled Australians who volunteer overseas and contribute to locally-driven, sustainable development through the Australian Volunteers Program (AVP).

The Australian Government has supported international volunteering in the FSM, RMI and Palau for many years. This year, we are celebrating International Volunteers Day with:

- Over 15,000 Australians who have volunteered since the program started more than 60 years ago.
- 800+ Australians who have contributed to sustainable development in 26 countries in 2018.



L-R Kate Miller, Kara Clarke, Jaclyn McCosker, Nikisha Smith, Elly Love and Joshua Hopkins

There are 8 volunteers currently placed in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and 1 volunteer currently placed in Palau:

Kate Miller: Victim Support Coordinator, Yap State Attorney General's Office, FSM

Kara Clarke: Health Policy Analyst, Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau

Jaclyn McCosker: Gender Development Officer, Chuuk Women's Council, FSM

Nikisha Smith: Disability Support Officer, Pohnpei Department of Health and social services, FSM

Elly Love: Knowledge Management Specialist, Micronesia Conservation Trust, Pohnpei FSM

Joshua Hopkins: Curriculum Specialist— Maths, Chuuk Department of Education, FSM

Nina van Breugel: Social Worker, Yap Women's Interest Office, FSM

Patrick Sim: Disaster Risk Management Advisor, Yap State Office of Emergency Management & Climate Change adaptation, Department of Resources and Development, FSM

Marjorie Geron: Gender Development Officer, Pohnpei Women's Interest Officer, FSM



#AusVols #IVD2018 #resilientcommunities



### EMBASSY OF AUSTRALIA POHNPEI POSITION VACANT: Senior Program Manager



The Australian Embassy in Pohnpei is seeking applications from suitably qualified persons to apply for the position of Senior Program Manager.

The temporary contract is for 6-months with a possibility to extend the contract. The salary is USD \$31,050 per annum, pro rata for the duration of the contract.

Australian Aid's objective is to help people overcome poverty by promoting regional stability and prosperity. The Senior Program Manager assists with the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and budget management of Australia's Aid program delivery and across the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palau.

Applicants should have demonstrated project management and implementation skills, financial management, writing, communication and organisational skills. Relevant tertiary qualifications and experience will be highly regarded. The role requires regular regional travel.

The Application Forms, including the duty statement and selection criteria must be downloaded at: [www.fsm.embassy.gov.au](http://www.fsm.embassy.gov.au)

Please email all application documents below to: [eliza.woolcock@dfat.gov.au](mailto:eliza.woolcock@dfat.gov.au)

1. Resumé/CV
2. Response to each of the Selection Criteria (Attachment A)
3. Completed Attachments B and C

**Application closing date is 5pm Monday 7 January 2019**



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68<sup>th</sup>

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES



Honorable Ferny S. Perman  
Senator, Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia  
Commencement Speaker

Wednesday, December 19, 2018  
at 9:00 AM  
Main Gym, FSM China Friendship Sports Center  
Palikir, Pohnpei  
Federated States of Micronesia



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Theme of the Graduating Class of Summer and Fall 2018



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# World Bank Vice President for Asia and Pacific Region visits the North Pacific

By **Bill Jaynes**  
The Kaselehlie Press

December 2, 2018

**FSM**—Victoria Kwakwa, World Bank Vice President for the East Asia and Pacific region was in Pohnpei this week to make connection with contacts here and to get a feel for the environment. In addition to meeting with the nations' top leaders she also met with NORMA staff regarding a fisheries project. Throughout her trip she also discussed a sustainable energy project the World Bank has been supporting in the FSM.

After Pohnpei she continued on to Chuuk where she was to meet with the Chuuk Women's Council in addition to meeting with government leaders there.

She took 30 minutes from her schedule to speak with The Kaselehlie Press regarding the purpose for her trip, her first to the North Pacific. She said that one of the main purposes for her trip was to signal the bank's very strong interest in the countries in the North Pacific as part of a broader, stepped up engagement in the Pacific.

"Now this is also in the context of increasing global focus in the development community on the situation of small island developing states (SIDS)," she said. "Because we recognize that they face unique constraints and unique challenges that make their development a bit more hard to achieve. So this trip here is to signal this stepped up engagement in the North Pacific, increased attention to FSM and a desire to continue to grow the partnership, to deepen it to ensure that it works for FSM."

We had earlier indicated our desire to talk about the progress of the fiber optic project.

"One of the key challenges countries of the Pacific face is their remoteness," she said. "There's been some analysis that tries to quantify that remoteness by determining how far those countries are from major markets that would provide trade and growth and economic opportunities."

She said that on average, the SIDS in the Caribbean region average a distance from major markets of about 8000 km. The most remote islands in the Indian Ocean average a distance of about 10,000 km. Pacific countries average a distance from a major market of about 12,000 km. That is complicated in some Pacific SIDS because like the FSM, their countries are not just one island but several. Land masses are small but they are spread over a large area. "So you have to find ways to connect the islands within themselves and also with the world at

large," she said.

While the infrastructure to make the connections is important, support for policy and institutional requirements in order to achieve the kind of connectivity is equally important so the World Bank has been working with the FSM with that in mind.

It's been a little slow because we had to work through institutional reforms but those are happening. Without the support and institutional reforms, the infrastructure wouldn't be quite enough.

FSM Telecom (FSMTC) is mandated by law to operate in all four states which means that all four states get service. FSMTC previously operated as a monopoly by law, but atypically for monopolies had one of the lowest prices for service in the Pacific regardless of the local perception. But the Pohnpei market has helped to prop up the other monetarily smaller markets.

We expressed our previously stated concern that if an outside competitor were to come in and "cherry pick" just the biggest Pohnpei market and drives FSMTC out of the market for whatever reason, would they still be able to be economically viable in the smaller markets that perhaps outside providers might not be motivated to serve? If they could not the end result could be plenty of infrastructure but no provider due to purely economic factors.

"These needs will need to be discussed. The objective as we work with the government would not be to exclude but to expand access, improve service quality, and improve affordability. Certainly we wouldn't want a result where due to reforms other states are cut off. So certainly this is an issue that needs to be looked at," she said.

She said there are ways to avoid it through the regulatory framework and how competitors can enter the market and that is part of what the World Bank is working with the FSM to accomplish. "Yes, it could happen, it's a risk but it's a risk that could be mitigated and that would not be the outcome that we would want to see," she said. "We want the best for the FSM. It's something that we need to work together on to advance this agenda."

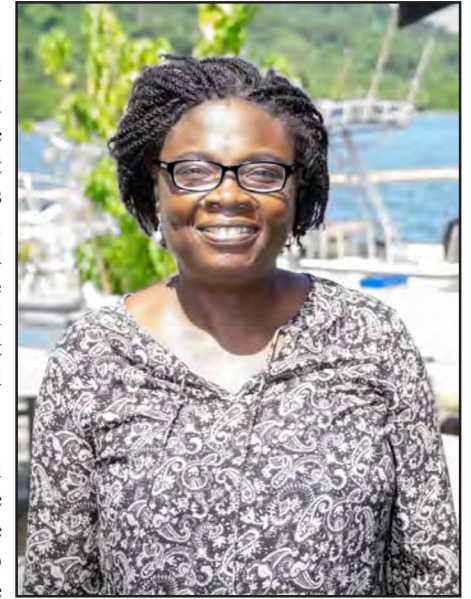
She said that World Bank is dialoguing with the FSM in an effort to truly understand what the specificities of the FSM are. "We don't have any pre-conceived ideas. We do have experience working in other countries and we have seen what has worked but we'll have to continue to check it as we go along and make sure we're getting the outcomes we desire," she said. "We are looking out for these things."

She said that the World Bank commissioned a report that many people have not seen called "The Pacific Possible" which she promised to get us access to. She said that the report looked at economic entry points for SIDS with limited access to markets. The report was designed to find those limited entry points. For some SIDS it could be tourism. It could be migration or label mobility schemes. The report looks at what countries need to do in order to make good strategic planning.

She said that Pohnpei Governor Peterson said that Pohnpei is about to update the five year strategic development plan. She said the report would be a good tool to help with that and promised to send a copy to the newspaper.

"What we found out in the study was, 'yes, these countries are growing more slowly than developing countries,' you know, the small island developing states. But if there's a more deliberate effort to tap these economic opportunities, the policy frameworks and the investments that are needed, the GDP growth rate could improve quite a bit," she said.

I think it's important that the World Bank position be understood. "Basically, the way that we see it, the infrastructure agenda is huge in these countries. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) estimates that in the Pacific you need about \$3 billion to close the gap to have adequate, climate resilient



infrastructure in the region. We need all the resources we can get, being used in the most efficient way in a well-planned project; well prepared and well implemented."

"So with this agenda, we believe that Chinese investment could be part of the solution, or investments funded by China," she said. "But we all need to work together to help the countries plan these investments so that they're the right investments. They're designed right, including with climate resilience in mind and they're designed with good global standards for procurement, for social and environmental safeguards. So we're ready to work with the countries with this in mind."

## Four arrested in conjunction with illegal dredging in Sokehs

By **Bill Jaynes**  
The Kaselehlie Press

December 7, 2018

**Pohnpei**—On Saturday, December 1, 2018, police arrested four men on charges of illegal dredging in Danpei, Sokehs. Arrested were Abraham Sohs, John Sog, Jose San Nicolas, and Juan San Nicolas.

The charges were not actually filed by the prosecutor's office until the next day. All four were charged with four counts each of Criminal Conspiracy in violation of 61 PC 4-102, Accessories in violation of 61 PC 1-111, and Compound a Crime in violation of 61 PC 10-121.

The San Nicolases were additionally charged with eight charges each of Conditions for Mining or Dredging in violation of 42 PC 9-102(1), and four charges each of Contractor's License in

violation of 42 PC 9-102(A)

Jose San Nicolas was also additionally charged with Obstruction of Justice in violation of 61 PC 10-152, and Misconduct in Public Office in violation of 61 PC 10-112.

They four were arrested on Saturday and released on bail the following afternoon but they were initially arrested at police initiative after they crossed a police barricade and continued to dredge. Arrests were made again and a search warrant executed after the court issued the warrants. Bail was once again posted.

VCS has announced that until further notice they will no longer be selling sand.

All of the men are merely accused and are presumed to be innocent unless found to be otherwise in a court of law.



# Fifth Annual White Ribbon Walkabout to eliminate violence against women in Chuuk and Pohnpei

By *Bill Jaynes*  
The Kaselehlie Press

25 November 2018

**FSM**—This evening the Australian Embassy to the FSM hosted its fifth annual White Ribbon Walkabout to eliminate violence against women. This year the Embassy also hosted a White Ribbon Walkabout in Chuuk.

The Embassy has been hosting this event to raise awareness about domestic violence in the FSM, and to stand up against this violence in our homes.

Ambassador George Fraser addressed the crowd in Pohnpei before kicking off the walk. Second Secretary and Consul, Katherine Grant gave the same speech in Chuuk at their Walkabout. The text of the speeches follows:

Domestic violence means inside the home. Overwhelmingly, the perpetrators of violence against women and girls are men within the family. We are not talking about strangers on the street.

Violence against women and girls is pervasive and persistent throughout the world and is a gross violation of human rights. It has a profound and devastating impact on victims and it constrains economic growth as well as social development.

In 2014, Australia funded a FSM Family Health and Safety Study. The study looked into the prevalence and types of violence against women, including sexual assault across all four states in the FSM. The study looked at intimate partner violence, meaning violence from a husband or boyfriend against their partner.

The results of the survey are concerning because they show a high level of violence against women, and this demands urgent action.

In the FSM, one in three ever-partnered women has experienced physical and/or sexual violence by a partner at least once in their life.

But the situation is much worse in Kosrae and Chuuk. Notably, many experienced this violence within the last 12 months. Women aged from 15 to 24 were the most likely to have experienced violence.

Looking at these statistics, this means that 1 in 3 of our daughters, sisters, and nieces are likely to experience domestic violence in their lives, many before they are 24 years old.

Violence against women is unacceptable, anywhere, anytime. Eliminating it is a priority of the Australian Government and a key part of our overseas aid program.

This is why Australia is proud to be funding programs to help end domestic violence and provide better counseling services to women and girls who are suffering from it in the FSM.

We also have a Domestic Violence Adviser working across the FSM to implement a National Gender Policy. This work is part of our Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development Program.

Under the program, Australia was active in supporting introduction of the Domestic Violence Act which was passed in Pohnpei in November 2017. Kosrae also passed legislation in 2014.



Now, Chuuk legislators are also considering a domestic violence Bill.

Without these laws, women and girls have little protection. But in Pohnpei, they now have opportunity to use this legislation for protection of families from Domestic Violence.

I encourage you to use this law, if you or someone you know needs help, to break free from the cycle of domestic violence. Report it to the police and seek help. The laws are there right now for your protection.

Violence takes multiple forms such as physical, sexual, emotional and economic abuse. Violence may occur in the home or outside of the home, and includes domestic

and family violence, sexual assault, sexual exploitation and trafficking.

Gender inequality is the root cause of violence against women. We must work with all members of our society, including men and boys, to transform gendered social norms, attitudes and behaviors to eliminate men's violence against women.

On behalf of the Australian Government, with assistance from the National Olympic Committee and Pohnpei Athletics, I want to thank you all very much for participating in this important event, to stand up against violence in our homes.

Together, let us end violence against women and girls in Pohnpei and the FSM.

# FSM Congress passes act to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation

By *Bill Jaynes*  
The Kaselehlie Press

December 7, 2018

**FSM**—On November 17, the FSM Congress passed CA 20-150 that would add a prohibition of discrimination based on sexual orientation to the FSM Code.

Section 107 of Title 1 of the Code of the FSM previously banned “discrimination on account of race, sex, language, or religion” and provided for equal protection for all. CA 20-150 adds the prohibition of discrimination based on sexual orientation.

On final reading during the recent special session, three of the four FSM states, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Yap voted for passage and the act was transmitted to President Christian on November 20. Though he has not yet signed it, indications currently are that he intends to do so after consultation with cabinet members who are currently off island.

On the same day as Speaker Simina introduced the non-discrimination act, Senator Isaac Figir of Yap introduced a bill that would have barred employment of transgender people by the FSM National Government. Though the bill was assigned to the committee on Justice and Government Operations,

that committee took no action on it and the bill was never withdrawn from committee for consideration by Congress.

If President Christian signs the non-discrimination act into law, that new law would prohibit the passage of Senator Figir's bill since it would disallow the passage of any law that would discriminate based on sexual orientation.

“C.B.No.20-261 I introduced did not reflect my intention or how I wanted the bill to be drafted,” Senator Figir wrote. “So I turned around and withdrew C.B.No.20-258 (CA 20-150) on the floor for a vote. There were oppositions to the bill, but I was able to get bill passed on 1st reading when there were only 10 or 11 members present.”

He said that had he not withdrawn the Speaker's bill it could have sat in committee with no action if he had not intervened. “I did so because it is the right thing to do for FSM,” he wrote.

“I'm a strong supporter of human rights and spent my political career advocating human rights. See comments/discussions on the bill (in the Congressional Journal). I'm very happy C.B. No.20-258 passed and pending President signing the Act. I'm happy people are discussing the issue. My bill triggers that discussion. There are contemporary issues people are afraid to talk about,” he wrote.

“My actions on C.B. No.20-258 on the floor of speaks for my belief in human rights,” he concluded.



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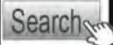


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## FSM sends Typhoon Yutu Relief to CNMI

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—The Twentieth Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), during its Sixth Special Session, passed a Congressional Act appropriating \$170,000 to assist in funding relief efforts in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) after it suffered from the extraordinary effects of Typhoon Yutu. On November 27th, 2018 President Peter M. Christian signed the Congressional Act into law. Quoting from the law itself, \$100,000 is allocated for “Mariana Islands Typhoon Yutu Relief” and \$70,000 is for “subsidy to the different state-owned utilities companies in the FSM...to send linesmen and other emergency personnel to the CNMI for the relief effort.”

This is the second \$100,000 donated to the CNMI by the National Government and the people of the FSM to assist in the wake of two separate typhoons. Typhoon Yutu, formed on October 21st, 2018 and dissipated on November 3rd, 2018 is the strongest typhoon to impact the CNMI on record. It was preceded by Typhoon Mangkhut in September, 2018 which prompted the FSM to donate \$100,000 each to both the CNMI and Guam.

In addition, Teresa Filepin—the FSM Consul General for Guam—has been working with her staff and the FSM Association in Guam to gather relief supplies for Saipan and Tinian. Matson, Inc. has generously donated both a 20ft container and free shipping to support these efforts.

It is the hope of the FSM National Government that the combination of extra discretionary funding and extra manpower will help the CNMI recover soon.



*Mr. Johnny Silbanuz (FSM Foreign Service Officer), Ivan Blanco (CNMI House Representative), Teresa Filepin (FSM Consul General in Guam), Ralph Torres (Governor of CNMI), and Diego Benavente (Honorary FSM Consul General in CNMI) in the handing-over ceremony on November 17th, 2018*

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# President Signs FSM Trust Fund Transparency & Accountability Law

*FSM Information Services*

**PALIKIR, Pohnpei**— Certified by the Twentieth Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia during its Sixth Special Session, on December 3rd, 2018, President Peter M. Christian signed Public Law #20-147 which will further promote transparency and accountability of the FSM Trust Fund.

The law states “While the Board of the FSM Trust Fund...has not been duly constituted...all powers of the Board shall be vested in and exercisable by the President of the FSM; Provided, however, that he shall cause the Administrator of the Fund to report on a regular basis to Congress of the progress of the FSM Trust

Fund. The Administrator shall report...to Congress on a quarterly basis but at least 10 days before each regular session.... The Administrator shall be deemed a fiduciary and shall be held to the standard of a fiduciary....”

So, what does this mean? Imagine you have a bag of money that you’re keeping for when you are retired. Every year, the FSM puts money into this bag—the FSM Trust Fund—and the hope is that it will

help sustain important operations, such as schools and hospitals, in 2023 and beyond; particularly as we improve our economy and thus increase our revenues. What the Congress certified, and the President signed, is a law that states that every quarter (or three months), the person in charge of the bag of money (the Administrator of the FSM Trust Fund) must report on how much money is in the bag. In addition, the Administrator is deemed a fiduciary—this is someone who has an ethical and legal obligation to do their best to take care of financial assets.

# Making the Rights Real –The FSM National Disability Forum

*FSM Information Services*

**PALIKIR, Pohnpei**—The Federated States of Micronesia reflected on its implementation status of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in a National Disability Forum which was convened on November 20th-22nd, 2018 in Chuuk State. National and State Government and civil society groups, from all four states of the FSM, attended—as well as representatives of Disabled Persons Organizations. The theme for the National Disability Forum was “Making the Rights Real”, to emphasize the importance of ensuring that the articles in the CRPD are made a reality.

The CRPD explains in Articles 1 and 2 that “disability is an evolving concept.... Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory impairments which, in interaction with various barriers, may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.” For example, a blind man cannot see—the CPRD asks of countries, then, to ensure that blind men and women can receive the same services and live the same life as those with sight enjoy, from gaining an education to accessing healthcare, or from running a business to starting a family. All citizens, regardless of impairment or lack thereof, should be able to enjoy a healthy, happy, and fulfilling life.

The National Disability Forum is an opportunity for the FSM States to deliberate, and contribute, to the status of the implementation of the CRPD. Ratified on December 7th, 2016, the FSM is due to submit an initial report roughly two years after the ratification date, which is this coming January 2019. Thus, the discussions in the National Disability Forum included reflection on our country’s progress in ensuring that the rights of persons with disabilities



are promoted, protected, and fulfilled. The forum also served as an opportunity to recognize mutual challenges in this regard.

In the opening address Mr. Wincener David, the representative of the FSM Department of Health & Social Affairs stated “as we progress during this meeting, we must not lose sight of what is needed and sought for our disabled population within the FSM. The accessibility issue for the disabled is fundamentally important—because it doesn’t just bridge the gaps in accessing services, but also informs the general public that the disabled population is recognized and supported in the FSM.”

The process that the FSM National Government has undertaken towards the ratification, implementation and reporting on the CRPD has been done in collaboration with the FSM States to ensure that the realities for persons with disabilities are taken into account.

The FSM National Government is grateful for the ongoing support of the Pacific Community’s Regional Rights Resource Team throughout this process. The FSM also recognizes the support of other partners, which include the World Health Organization, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for the Human Rights, and the Pacific Disability Forum, who have supported the National Disabilities Forum.

# President Christian attends Yap fiber optic ceremony

**PALIKIR, Pohnpei**—On November 29th, 2018 President Peter M. Christian, in addition to special guests from Nippon Electric Company (NEC) and PT Telekomunikasi Indonesia, participated in the Yap State Fiber Optic Cable Inaugural Ceremony held in Gilman, Yap. Organized by the Government of Yap in conjunction with the Federated States of Micronesia Telecommunication Cable Corporation (FSMT Cable), the event was a formal celebration of the completion and operation of the new fiber optic cable in Yap State.

In partnership with the World Bank, the FSM has committed towards improving Information Communications Technology (ICT) in the FSM. After creating FSMT Cable, and upon the completion of preliminary work, the FSM developed a contract with NEC in March 2016. By August 2017 the Wet Plant—that’s the physical cable in the ocean, repeaters, etc.—was installed. In June 2018 the Dry Plant—the land cable through ductings, connecting to a cable landing station—was installed. The Yap State fiber optic cable has been in operation since July 2018.

Yap State’s internet capacity, when it relied on the satellite connection before the fiber optic cable was completed, was 50 megabytes per second. Now the system capacity is up to 500 gigabytes per second. In other words, the capacity has increased about 10,000 times. In layman’s terms, the internet capacity went from slow to fast. If the satellite connection was like traveling from Woleai to Ulithi in an outrigger canoe, the fiber optic connection is like traveling from Woleai to Ulithi in the MV Hapilmohl. However, internet capacity is not the same thing as internet speed.

Some citizens may appreciate

learning the distinction between FSMT Cable, FSM Telecommunications Corporation (FSMTC), and the FSM Telecommunications Regulation Authority (TRA). FSMT Cable is the submarine cable company connecting Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae to promote broadband adoption in the FSM; they are a wholesaler and not-for-profit. FSMT Cable’s customers are the Internet Service Providers (ISPs), of which at the moment the only ISP available is FSMTC. However, per the Telecom Act of 2014, the FSM intends to liberalize its marketplace i.e. allow multiple ISPs to exist and compete with each other, with the goal being cheaper and better internet, television, and phone service for all citizens in the FSM. The purpose of the TRA, then, is to regulate those ISPs.

Learn more about the fiber optic cable projects in the FSM by visiting the FSMT Cable website here: <https://fsmcable.com/>

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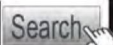
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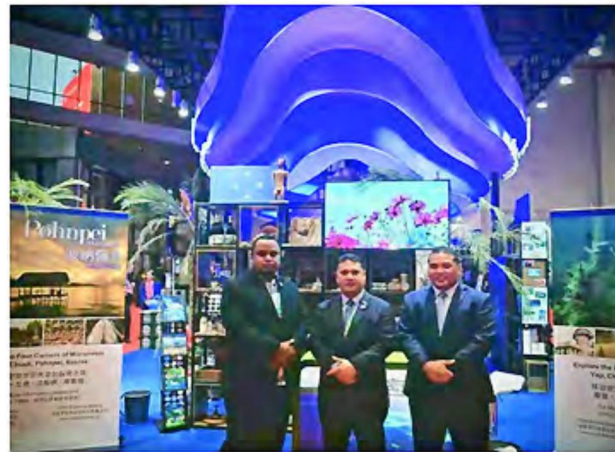
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## FSM Participates in China International Import Expo (CIIE) 2018

FSM Embassy in Beijing

November 16

**BEIJING** —The long-anticipated China International Import Expo (CIIE) finally opened its doors on November 5, 2018 in Shanghai city, where 172 countries and over 3,600 companies gathered to take part in this first ever annual event which lasted six days. “New Era, Shared Future” was this year’s theme for the Expo. Regional and international organizations held discussions, pursued common developments, and worked the grounds on the sidelines of the event which attracted many world leaders to speak, including prominent business magnates and philanthropists such as Bill Gates and Jack Ma.



L-R, First Secretary Anefal, Ambassador Apis and Minister Sivas

During the opening ceremony on November 5, 2018, H.E. President Xi Jinping delivered a keynote speech where he urged an open international trade through the concept of the Belt and Road Initiative, as well as a commitment to a win-win and fair global exchange. President Xi announced that this CIIE will be an annual event going forward.

In line with the efforts of the FSM Department of Resources and Development to promote the FSM as a tourism and investment destination, the FSM Embassy in Beijing was tasked to represent the FSM at this first annual CIIE in Shanghai. For the past several months, the FSM Embassy in Beijing had been working hand in hand with the FSM Department of Resources and Development, the four state Visitors’ Bureaus and the four state investment offices, as well as other Pacific Island countries, and relevant Chinese government ministries in Beijing, to facilitate its preparation for the first annual CIIE. Through such effort, the FSM Embassy utilized this opportunity as a platform mainly to promote the FSM to the large international audience that were in attendance.

Through the Expo, the Embassy was able to show case products with exportable potential from all four states to over 200,000 visitors per day. The products included the Green Banana Fiber and Wawa Banana Chips from Kosrae; Pohnpei Pepper, Updated Coffee, Noni Juice, and Coconut Oil Bath Soap from Pohnpei; A’s Pure Water from Yap and numerous handicrafts from all four states. The Embassy intends to work closely

with the four state private sectors especially the respective chambers of commerce to promote more products in next year’s CIIE.

The FSM delegation to the Expo was comprised of Ambassador Carlson D. Apis, Minister and Deputy Chief of Mission K.S. Vincent Sivas, and First Secretary Francis G. Anefal. The Embassy expresses its appreciation to the FSM Department of Resources and Development for its guidance and valuable assistance which made the FSM’s participation a success.



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## President Christian receives credentials from His Excellency Giorgio Guglielmino, Ambassador of the Italian Republic

**PALIKIR, Pohnpei**— On November 22nd, 2018, His Excellency President Peter M. Christian received credentials from His Excellency Giorgio Guglielmino, Ambassador of the Italian Republic commonly referred to as Italy. Ambassador Guglielmino advised President Christian that the Italian Embassy in Manila, Philippines, will also be the liaison for the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Republic of Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia. “We know you’d like to develop tourism,” the Ambassador said, “And we’d...like to direct Italians to the FSM...Italian

tourists are keen to discover new places.”

President Christian advised his appreciation of Italy’s “continued support for the Paris Agreement...whatever we can do to continue momentum...would be most useful to us.” The President further emphasized the FSM’s appreciation for Italy taking in refugees, though also noted that organizations supporting refugees “must emphasize respect to the culture.”

“Italy has always been a very welcoming place,” Ambassador Guglielmino said.

Located primarily on a peninsula in Southern Europe, Italy has 54 World Heritage Sites—the most in the



world—and is the eighth largest economy in the world as measured by Gross Domestic Product (GDP). To learn more about Italy and its relationship with the FSM, visit the Department of Foreign Affairs Website here: <https://dfa.gov.fm/>

## Updates on the MV Hapilmohl-1 & the state of FSM Ships

### FSM Information Services

After a November 26th, 2018 joint inspection by FSM’s Department of Transportation, Communications & Infrastructure (TC&I) and Yap State Government, the MV Hapilmohl-1—commonly referred to as the H-1—was ready to be handed over to Yap State. On November 28th, 2018 after a luncheon attended by President Peter M. Christian, Governor Tony Ganngiyon, Senators Isaac Figir and Joseph Urusemal, and other distinguished guests representing all three branches of Yap State’s Government, Yap received operation rights to the ship once more. “The President boarded the ship before the luncheon...he was pleased, everybody was pleased, even shocked to see the ship in such good condition,” said Secretary of TC&I Lukner Weilbacher during a December 6th, 2018 meeting.

doesn’t have the Chinese manufacturers’ representatives in their country.

Secretary Weilbacher took the initiative to find some way to ensure these ships could be operational. He learned of a shipyard in the Philippines, where TC&I received cost estimates for overhauling the H-1 and Chief Mailo. The Government requested and received funding from Congress, and then in April 2018 the H-1 began its overhaul. With continuous on-sight supervision in the Philippines by Captain Lee May and Chief Engineer Joanes Jackson, and frequent coordination visits by other TC&I staff in the Marine Division, the ship received genuinely substantial upgrades and improvements.

These major overhauls included water-washing and sandblasting the bottom of the ship, changing of all of the sink anodes, drawing both propeller shafts and replacing all the shaft bearings, drawing the anchors and chains and replacing the chain cables, repainting the entire underwater and superstructure—including passageways inside the ship, patching of much of the hull structure, reconstruction of access ladders, replacement of bottom-plates, overhauls of both main engines and the replacement of one generator, new radar, GPS, and SSB radio equipment, installation of a new gyrocompass, and servicing of all life rafts, among other improvements. “If we had not found the shipyard in the Philippines,” said Secretary Weilbacher, “then the next option would be to sell the ship—and if no takers, then we’d just give it away. So we’re so very happy that the ship is working again.”



The H-1 is a Chinese-manufactured ship owned and operated by the FSM National Government and Yap State Government respectively since 2007. Historically its had a monthly schedule of continuous back and forth visits from Yap proper (Waab) to its outer (neighboring) islands, though the ship hadn’t been dry-docked for “about 4-5 years,” according to Secretary Weilbacher, until it arrived in the Philippines this past April, 2018.

H-1 conducted a short trial run after the turnover where it visited Ulithi Atoll and Fais, bringing the former much needed fuel for its generators. As of December 6th, 2018 H-1 is completing her short trip and will return to Yap and prepare for her next field trip to visit all the islands in Yap State—all the way to Satawal and back.

The MV Chief Mailo is the next ship scheduled to be dry-docked in the Philippines.

The Government of China has agreed to donate another ship. After some of the initial bidding in China is completed then our countries will work together to design the new ship.

“Before the new ship is delivered, we’ll try to maintain this one,” said Secretary Weilbacher. “Yap State will be providing us the ship’s schedule, daily reports, and voyage reports. Before the ship went to dry-dock, we [TC&I] signed a Use Agreement with Yap...that spells out Yap’s responsibilities to provide the funds for operation, maintenance, and insurance...and for TC&I to conduct quarterly inspections to ensure that the ship is well-maintained...We require that the ship is fully crewed by TC&I-certified crew members.”

Meanwhile, one of the vessels owned and operated by the FSM National Government—



Under President Christian’s administration, the FSM National Government has tried to repair two ships—the MV Hapilmohl-1(H-1), based in Yap, and the MV Chief Mailo, based in Chuuk. These ships are owned by the FSM National Government but are operated by Yap State and Chuuk State respectively. Typically the FSM sends bids for dry-dock services in Japan, but in this case it was impossible because Japan

the MV Caroline Voyager—has reached her maximum useful life and is recommended for replacement. “For that, we’re working with the Government of Japan,” said Secretary Weilbacher.



**COM-FSM EMPLOYEE PROFILE**

Genevy Samuel is an Education Assistant Professor at College of Micronesia-FSM/ Chuuk Campus since 2012. A proud citizen of Chuuk State, she graduated from Saramen Chuuk Academy High School in 2003 and proceeded to enroll at COM-FSM majoring in Teacher Preparation and achieved the academic credentials in the following order.

- 2006 Graduated COM-FSM with an Associate of Arts Degree in Teacher Preparation
  - 2007 Graduated with Third Year Teacher Preparation Certificate
  - 2008 Graduated UOG/COM-FSM with a Bachelor's of Arts Degree in Education
  - 2010 Graduated from San Diego State University Online with a Master's Degree in Education Leadership
- She started and finished her master's degree while working as a teacher at Pohnpei Island Central School (PICS) teaching English to the freshmen. She said "Being part of the online Master Program from San Diego State University (SDSU) and working at the same time was a "Tough and Challenging" time for me. I almost gave up but with the support of my classmates and most especially my family I managed to survive the program. My best advice for student choosing the option is to use your time wisely and listen to the best advice from people around you who care for your future."

When asked about the cost savings from



studying at COM-FSM as oppose to studying abroad, she said this.

Picking the college to continue my education to achieve my Bachelor of Art Degree was a big opportunity for me not to leave FSM, and not to leave home. I think about the cost that I will face when leaving COM-FSM were the expense is less and affordable for me compared to studying abroad. I think of what will happen if I go further my education, but my dream doesn't come true if I end up paying for rent living with family members, and paying other expenses. So studying abroad is more expensive if you don't know what to do and how to do it.

She is most proud of working at her alma mater and in Chuuk, her home state. She confirms it in these words, "most proud of being a Pure

Chuukese teaching Chuukese students from the five regions in Chuuk which include Northern and Southern Namwoneas, Faichuuk, Mortlocks and Northwest Region; second, teaching the same courses I took when I was a student; and, lastly I am most proud of all the accomplishments I made in life."

When asked about some important lessons learned to impart on students studying at the college and at high schools to have a successful professional career, her answer is very short and sweet.

Going to the College of Micronesia-FSM gives me a higher and quality education which leads me to a successful future.

When asked about advices to professionals looking for employment opportunities at COM-FSM, this is her message. Working at College of Micronesia-FSM you get to meet different students and employees with different cultural lifestyles that they continuously practice among each other.

The most important question was left to the end. How do you make it work being a full time Mom and working at the same time?

Being a single mother and having a career is not something that any woman would wish, but unfortunately, it happens. The only solution is to make the most of it, by learning how to balance between one's needs as a woman and one's needs as a mother. As Denice William says "A single mom tries when things are hard. She never gives up. She believes in her family, even when things are tough. She knows that above all thing a mother's love is more than enough".

**Employment**



**Opportunities**

**College of Micronesia - FSM Mission Statement**

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

**Values**

**COMMITMENT EXCELLENCE TEAM**  
**LEARNER-CENTEREDNESS PROFESSIONALISM WORK**

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

Positions	Location	Annual Salary	Closing Date
Student Services Coordinator	Chuuk Campus	\$16,124.00	December 13, 2018
Extension Agent I	Yap Campus	\$8,586.00-\$9,675.00	December 13, 2018
Director of CRE	National Campus	\$30,194.00	December 19, 2018
Instructional Coordinator	Yap/FMI Campuses	\$17,643.00-\$19,880.00	December 20, 2018
Maintenance Worker II	Yap Campus	\$5,955.00	January 2, 2019
Instructor- English	Chuuk Campus	\$16,131.00-\$17,819.00	January 5, 2019
Instructor - Education	Kosrae Campus	\$16,131.00-\$17,819.00	January 5, 2019
Computer Lab Monitor	Chuuk Campus	\$6,136.00	January 5, 2019

Serious inquiries can be made to the Human Resources Office at email address [hro@comfsm.fm](mailto:hro@comfsm.fm) and telephone number (691) 320-2482 extension numbers 180 and 179 or visit us at [www.comfsm.fm](http://www.comfsm.fm).



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

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