

Court rules that Mwoalen Wahu Ileili has legal standing in sea cucumber harvest case

Partially denies defendants' motion to dismiss



Farmers, along with other concerned citizens protest the planned sea cucumber harvest with a march on Peilapalap on May 11

By *Bill Jaynes*
 The Kaselehlie Press

September 29, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—In what may well be a landmark decision cited in future legal actions, the FSM Supreme Court ruled that the Conservation Society of Pohnpei lacks standing to bring a civil action against the plaintiffs in the sea cucumber case but co-plaintiffs, the Mwoalen Wahu Ileili do have legal standing to bring the action.

The decision, delivered yesterday by Specially Appointed Justice Mayceleen JD Anson came in response to a motion

filed separately by Young Sun Corporation and by Pohnpei State defendants claiming that neither plaintiff in the case would be directly affected by a sea cucumber harvest and therefore the case should be dismissed. The decision essentially removed the Conservation Society of Pohnpei as plaintiffs in the case though they will remain as counter-defendants in the answer to the civil action filed by the defendants which also included a counter claim. The Mwoalen Wahu Ileili remains as a plaintiff so the hearings on issuance of a permanent injunction to permanently put a stop to the planned sea cucumber harvest will continue to move forward.

The potentially landmark portion of the decision came in a lengthy and technical legal discussion on the

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FSM citizen extradited to US to face felony charges

First FSM citizen to be extradited to US since 2005

By *Bill Jaynes*
 The Kaselehlie Press

September 20, 2016

Colonia, Yap—James C. Siugpiyemal today agreed to waive a hearing on extradition to the United States where he will face several criminal charges.

Those charges allege that while Siugpiyemal was serving as a correctional services officer at the Maui Community Correctional Center (MCCC) in 2014, he raped a female inmate. The allegations were described in graphic detail in the documents filed by the FSM Department of Justice on behalf of the United States.

The inmate who was serving time for theft

was on a work release program that allowed her to leave the jail in order to work. Her testimony says that Siugpiyemal discovered that she had posted a photo of herself in a bikini on Facebook, activity she feared would land her in solitary confinement and get her removed from the work furlough program. Siugpiyemal began contacting her via texts and by other methods, including Facebook, all of which eventually landed in the hands of Maui law enforcement officers.

Fearing that Siugpiyemal would report her Facebook activities, she agreed to meet him at the Maui Tropical Plantation parking lot. Against her objections he forced her through coercion to perform oral sex on him in her car. She kept the DNA evidence of that act in her car until she could bag it and put it

into her mother's freezer. She also ordered a small video camera and put Siugpiyemal off until after it arrived. She used it to record in graphic detail the next time that Siugpiyemal forced himself on her. In addition to capturing the act on video which she turned over to law enforcement officers, she also kept the DNA evidence.

Based on the State's evidence, a Maui grand jury handed down an indictment in 2014, and a bench warrant was issued with a \$500,000 bail requirement. But Siugpiyemal was already gone, having fled to Yap after paying over \$1600 cash for a plane ticket.

The request for extradition came through diplomatic channels to the FSM Department of Foreign Affairs on August 23, 2016, almost two months after the victim filed a civil suit alleging that the State did not take her

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IN THIS ISSUE

Bill Raynor Micronesia Challenge Scholarship Fund 2016 Matching Challenge

A fundraiser for the Bill Raynor Micronesia Challenge Scholarship Fund took place in Honolulu on September 4 at the East West Center. It was a gathering of people who knew and loved Bill and they sang songs, told stories and shared memories – celebrating his life on the year anniversary of his passing (September 1, 2015). A total of \$39,500 was raised in honor of Bill Raynor (February 22, 1957 – September 1, 2015), Director of The Nature Conservancy Pacific Division, and his 34 years of conservation work in the region. The Bill Raynor Micronesia Challenge Scholarship Fund will support emerging leaders across the region. Bill worked with the Micronesia Conservation Trust to establish the Fund in 2015, and it is his last loving legacy to the islands and people he served and championed throughout his life.

As a longtime resident of the island of Pohnpei in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Bill learned the Pohnpeian language and earned a Pohnpeian honorific title Soumadau en Pei ni Eng Eih—*the Lord of the Altar of the East Wind*—for, among other deeds, growing giant yams and being a true Pohnpeian master agroforester. In 1992, he helped launch The Nature Conservancy’s program in the FSM, focusing on innovative, community-led conservation and building partnerships. His inspiring leadership, deep commitment, and passion for innovation were critical to the success of groundbreaking initiatives at every scale—ranging from sustainable agriculture practices for local villages to international agreements to protect biodiversity. Bill lived life, including

his end of life, on his terms—fully, with love, and with a commitment to others and to the world.

Awardees of this prestigious scholarship will receive support to earn graduate degrees while receiving close guidance and mentorship from leading entities and individuals within the Micronesia Challenge (MC) partnership, including the peer learning networks Micronesians in Island Conservation (MIC) and the Pacific Islands Managed and Protected Areas Community (PIMPAC). As a sponsor and founding member of MIC, Bill was committed to identifying and nurturing conservation champions in Micronesia. MIC focuses on building the capacity of conservation leaders and their institutions/organizations, while PIMPAC focuses on building the capacity and skills of conservation practitioners and technical staff tasked to work with governments, NGOs, and communities to develop and implement conservation management and monitoring programs.

Two students from the region will be selected through a competitive process, with each receiving up to \$30,000 per year for two years for successful completion of a master’s program and three years for successful completion of a PhD. We are limiting this program to just two students per scholarship round in order to provide the mentorship, guidance and support required to ensure their success. We will also help place them in permanent positions when they graduate. To keep them “close to home”, so that they can continue to participate in Micronesia Challenge activities during breaks and remotely, scholarship winners will be required to study at universities in the Pacific Region (i.e. University of Guam, University of Hawaii, University of the South Pacific, Universities in Australia, New Zealand and Japan).

The alumni of the scholarship program will form a cadre of new leaders, who will meet annually in association with the MIC network. This will allow the alumni to continue to be mentored by conservation champions around the region and grow as leaders, who will in turn serve as mentors for new scholarship winners.

To support these students, our target goal is an endowment fund of approximately \$1.2M dollars, generating an estimated 5% in earnings annually. This will support two full time students at \$30,000 each per year. The Bill Raynor Micronesia Challenge Scholarship Fund is housed at the Micronesia Conservation Trust and will be invested as a sub-account within the Micronesia Challenge Endowment Fund.

During our global celebration of Bill’s life through December 2016, gifts to the endowment will be matched by a generous \$20,000 grant from an anonymous donor.

There is an online fundraising site featuring this scholarship and this site serves as a mechanism for making donations to the fund.

You can visit the site at <https://www.generosity.com/education-fundraising/bill-raynor-micronesia-challenge-scholarship-fund>



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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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OPA finds real risk for potential fraud and misuse of government purchased prepaid calling cards

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

September 19, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—FSM’s Office of the Public Auditor has concluded that the potential for employee abuse of government purchased TelCards is high and that no effective system has yet been put into place to guard against it.

The audit’s first finding was that there is an absence of written policies and procedures governing the purchase and use of prepaid telephone cards. The audit reviewed the three departments with the highest TelCard expenditures in fiscal year 2014 which amounted to a combined total of \$78,504 and the same departments in 2015 which had a combined total of TelCard expenditures of \$87,572. The audit noted that except for one program in one department which maintained an incomplete log sheet for TelCards, the departments did not maintain records that would provide information on the quantity received or issued, nor an inventory balance.

Though call history can be retrieved online from FSM Telecom for any TelCard, a

search of the history requires both the card number and the pin number, but those numbers were not recorded when TelCards were issued.

Under the first finding, the auditor concluded that it is not clear whether employees were encouraged to explore no or low cost alternative methods of communication such as Facebook Messenger, Skype, Yahoo Messenger, and others.

Finding number two in the audit said that the purchases of prepaid calling cards appeared to be excessive and provided examples in an appendix.

The audit says that there was also waste in that some of the cards had been allowed to expire. It said that it found 59 unused nonrefundable and non-returnable prepaid calling cards with face value of \$5 per card for a total of \$310 that had expired.

The FSMTC marketing department said that expired cards can in fact be renewed and that cards don’t expire while sitting on a shelf or in a cabinet.

The third finding in the audit said that government purchased prepaid calling cards were used to “share loads”. Auditors reviewed the calling history of a total of seven calling cards totaling \$1477 and found that five cards’ balances totaling \$1300 were transferred or shared to other cell phones belonging to employees’



family members, friends or relatives. Many of those transfers occurred after working hours.

The audit also revealed that one manager told them that it is difficult to keep track of calling card usage because oftentimes calling cards were given to employees as gifts or incentives to attend workshops or trainings.

“Sharing of balance and using prepaid calling cards after office hours without authority ha(s) increased the risks of fraud, abuse and misuse of funds for the cards. However, the management may not be aware of or be able to prevent them,” the audit said.

The Secretary of Finance and Administration concurred with all of the findings and said that the department is working on written policies and procedures regarding TelCard purchase and use that they will distribute soon. The Secretary wrote that a prohibition against “load sharing” will be included in those policies and procedures.

Performance audit of FSM’s Guam Consulate Office shows significant lack of results

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

September 29, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—After a performance audit of the FSM Consulate General office in Guam, the FSM Office of the public auditor has concluded that the office did not implement appropriate processes and internal controls over the development of performance measures and targets. In addition, they found that there was no monitoring and reporting of the consulate performance, which meant for missed opportunities to render improved, efficient and effective service and effective service delivery.

The auditors found that the FSM Consular functions and services in protecting and safeguarding FSM citizens in Guam need improvements. Auditors found no performance indicators or targets to guard citizens’ rights, interests and safety.

There were no records or information on file for any assistance rendered on citizens’ arrests and detentions. “Key staff of the Consulate Office was not aware of any

assistance proved to arrested or detained citizens,” the audit said. “Visitation by consulate staff was made only when notified by the Department of Justice regarding citizens’ deportation, and such visit was only to arrange deportees’ travels and related travel documents.”

It said that there were not available records and information regarding any consular assistance for citizens’ illness or death.

One of the consular activities provided for in the FSM Annual Budget was to increase the number of students attending the University of Guam and Guam Community College. But there was no record or information on file to measure, monitor and report on the FSM students attending schools on Guam.

Another budgeted activity was for the Consulate Office to increase the number of FSM citizen business owners in the region. The audit found that the consulate office has no record or information on file relating to assisted FSM business owners. It doesn’t even have information on the

number of businesses owned by FSM citizens in Guam.

Finding two says that there are no written guidelines or regulations to guide the operations of the consulate. According to the Consul General, a policy and procedure manual was developed in the past but that it is still in its draft form.

Finding three said that there was a lack of checking, monitoring and report of information to effectively evaluate the performance and accomplishments of the consulate office. The audit found that the FSM Department of Foreign Affairs has not been evaluating the performance of the Guam Consulate Office. Further, the Consulate Office has not been submitting an Annual Performance Activity Report either to the FSM Embassy in Washington or to the Department of Foreign Affairs. “According to the Consular General, he was not aware of the reporting requirements except for the financial activity report.

The audit said reporting that was there in terms of outputs was questionable. A

certain number of “good citizenship” seminars and workshops were reported for fiscal years 2012 to 2016 but only two seminars were held in 2012 and none from 2013 through 2016.

Monthly Department of Corrections visits were to be conducted in fiscal years 2012 to 2016 but the auditor found that only two visits were made.

324 meetings were targeted for fiscal years 2012 to 2016 but no records of meetings was maintained.

Lastly the auditor found that the Consulate was reimbursing fuel costs to consulate staff for using their own vehicles without proper authorization.

The audit included a one and a half page long spreadsheet listing targets for dozens of activities at the Consulate as compared to the actual result in each of the fiscal years since 2012. The Guam Consulate Office had not met one of the listed targets in any of listed type of services during any of the five fiscal years reviewed.

Chinese Embassy hosts reception in Pohnpei to celebrate China's 67th birthday

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

September 27, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—The Embassy of the People's Republic of China hosted a reception at the Cliff Rainbow hotel restaurant to celebrate the 67th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. The actual birthday of China is October 1.

Displayed on the walls of the restaurant were magnificent photographic works of art displaying the diverse lifestyles throughout China with an eye toward helping participants to understand the wide and varying cultures of various areas in China.

Ambassador Li Jie reminded the audience during his speech that the anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and the FSM took place during the recent Pacific Islands Forum meetings in Pohnpei.

"I would like to congratulate the FSM government for hosting a very successful meeting in Pohnpei - the 47th Pacific Island Forum," he said. "And thanks again to the National government and the Pohnpei State government for their warm

welcome and hospitality to our delegation. The Pacific Island countries are an integral and important part of the world. China always attaches great importance to and feels obliged to align with our Pacific partners.

"I am happy to mention here that, as a result of effective cooperation between China and the Pacific partners, satisfactory progress has been made," he continued. Over the past years, bilateral trade between China and the Pacific countries has been growing fast. Against the backdrop of sluggish world trade, the trade volume between China and the Pacific countries went up to \$ 8.1 billion last year, registering a growth of 61%. Of particular importance, this comes as a result of increases both in China's exports to and imports from Pacific countries. China renders zero-tariff treatment to 97 % of the tax items of products from the Least Developed Countries in the region and has started working on Free Trade Agreement arrangement with some countries in the region. It is very gratifying to see momentum



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ANNOUNCEMENT:

This announcement is made to inform the general public that Pohnpei Port Authority is now proposing to take bids on the following used items/equipment:

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14. Filing Cabinet
15. Wooden Bench
16. Window Glass
17. Conveyors
18. Booth/Stall
19. Steel Lockers
20. Gasoline Generator (ET950)

Closing date of receiving bid forms is October 14, 2016. For more information, you may contact FM&ID Manager at telephone number 320-2793 or 320-2682.

Thank you.

Nelson Etsch
General Manager

Pohnpei Port Authority

has been building in tourism exchanges, with over 100,000 Chinese tourists coming to the region last year. I am fully convinced that, with the common efforts, China and the Pacific countries will work closely to further uplift the bilateral relations to a new level."

He mentioned several outcomes of the economic and technical cooperation between the FSM and China including the recent handing over of the Okat bridge which he said, "has become not only the symbol of Kosrae but also a token of friendship between China and the FSM."

He also mentioned the first ever China-FSM Economic and Trade Commission Meeting was held in Pohnpei in January. He said "It put China as the second county ever to establish such economic and trade cooperation mechanisms with the FSM."

He spoke of the people to people exchanges and visits by FSM leaders to China as further proofs of good relations between the FSM and China.

"In the weeks and months to come, we will continue to discuss some new projects of bilateral cooperation and exchanges between our two countries, some of which

have been under serious consultation and will be put into implementation. Great potential also lies in tourism, infrastructure, transportation, and fisheries etc. These projects and cooperation will definitely bring more benefits to the people of our two countries and enhance our friendship.

"Ladies and gentlemen, tonight with us we have dozens of Chinese who live and work here in the FSM. They are a very solid bridge of friendship between the two countries. It is my belief that they will continue to work hard for a better understanding and cordial relationship between China and the FSM. I wish all of them here a happy festival and a happy life in the FSM," he concluded.

Deputy Secretary Samson Pretrick represented the FSM at the podium during the ceremony and confirmed FSM's adherence to the "one China policy" that helped the FSM and China to establish diplomatic relations 27 years ago. He thanked the People's Republic of China for their friendly relations with the FSM and their assistances.

Both offered toasts at the ends of their speeches.

Big fish landed during the 9th Annual Blue Nile Pohnpei Fishing Club Tournament



Pohnpei Fishing Club

September 17, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—25 boats registered for the 9th Annual Blue Nile Pohnpei Fishing Club Tournament. Blue Nile and Mangrove Bay along with their suppliers Titan Imports, Geoffrey Hughes, Ambros/Shimbros and Dickerson and Quinn provided prizes for winning fishers.

It was a good day out but a little cold and rainy. The rain did bring the fish up some and there were large fish landed. There were also plenty of great prizes.

Congratulations to the grand prize winner Rodney Phillip on Mr. Tip Sea. They pulled in a big marlin to win the tournament.

First prize of \$800 cash and a huge four liter bottle of Chivas Regal went to Rodney Phillip aboard Mr. Tip Sea who landed a 223.3 pound marlin.

Mary Tretnoff was again in the top prize category for her second place 140 pound marlin which won her \$500 and a two liter bottle of Chivas Regal.

Third and fourth prizes went to Konrad Englberger for his 112.4 pound Yellowfin Tuna and a 24.3 pound Wahoo. For the yellowfin Konrad won \$300 and a two liter bottle of Chivas Regal. For the wahoo he won an additional \$200 and a case of Sprite.

The fifth prize went to Team Saipan for their 22.9 pound Wahoo. For that they won \$100 cash and a case of Sprite.

Mary Tretnoff also won the Lady Angler first prize for another Marlin; this one, 102.3 pounds. For that she won an additional \$300 and a case of Sprite.

Rosa Weilbacher landed a 22.3 pound Wahoo winning her second place in the Lady Angler category. Her prize was \$200 and a case of Sprite.

Janet Panuelo received \$150 and a case of Sprite as third prize in the Lady Angler category for her 16.1 pound Skipjack.

As has almost come to be expected, Dane Nighswander took home the \$75 first prize in the Junior Angler category for his 19.2 pound wahoo. He was followed by Daman Perman

with a 9.9 pound Yellowfin for which he was awarded \$50. Ziggy Eperiam was close behind with a 9.7 pound yellowfin and took home \$25.

In the "Biggest Fish" category, winners each took home \$100 for the largest fish

in each species. Rosa Weilbacher landed the largest Wahoo that had not yet been awarded a prize at 19.4 pounds. Augustine Kohler scooped up a 21.2 pound Yellowfin for a prize. Eugene Kohler grabbed a 17.4 pound Skip Jack tuna, and Team Saipan got a 22.3 pound Mahi Mahi.

Along with a cold and rainy day of great fishing, every boat also received a complimentary case of Bud Light and Steinlager.

There were hotdogs and sausages at the weigh in with proceeds to support the Pohnpei Public Library.



There was a big crowd at the weigh in and everyone had a good time. The rain held off while the fish were being weighed and allowed everyone to belly up to the bar. Big thanks to Tina, Bill, Cel, Uta and Kumer's guys who helped out.

The Pohnpei Fishing Club thanks the sponsors Blue Nile, Mangrove Bay, and their suppliers, Titan Imports, Geoffrey Hughes, Ambros/Shimbros and Dickerson and Quinn. We can't hold these tournaments without them.

Next month is True Value tournament.



...Court decision

Continued from front page

standing of custom and tradition which is uncodified and sometimes difficult to define but is recognized in the Pohnpei State Constitution. The Mwoalen Wahu Ileili, the traditional leaders of Pohnpei whose spokesperson in the case is Iso Nahnken of Nett Mr. Salvador Iriarte, argued in their initial filing that the sea cucumber harvest would directly affect their traditional right to take the first fruits of the harvest.

According to the court's decision, the defendants argued in their motion that the custom of first fruits is no longer practiced and therefore not a basis that would provide the Mwoalen Wahu Ileili with legal standing to bring a civil action on the sea cucumber harvest.

The matter of the standing of custom and tradition in the legal environment was a huge issue that the court could not ignore in its ruling. Iso Nahnken of Nett Mr. Salvador Iriarte confirmed that this is the first time that the Mwoalen Wahu Ileili has jointly resorted to the courts on any issue in its history.

Mr. Iriarte said that he is pleased with the court's decisions on the action so far.

The decision made yesterday essentially upheld the place of custom and tradition

as compatible with the rule of law.

After the civil action was filed, on July 20 the FSM Supreme Court issued a temporary restraining order (TRO) barring the defendants from proceeding with the sea cucumber harvest. The TRO has been renewed several times as motions and arguments have been heard and was renewed again with yesterday's ruling.

On August 3, 2016, the State defendants filed a motion to dismiss for lack of standing and subject matter jurisdiction.

The court set a hearing on the permanent injunction for August 23, 2016.

On August 11, Young Sun filed its Answer, Affirmative Defenses and counterclaims.

On August 23, 2016, during the scheduled hearing on plaintiffs' motion for a preliminary injunction, the court granted defendant Young Sun's motion to stay proceedings on the hearing for plaintiffs' motion for a preliminary injunction pending the appellate division's ruling on the writs of prohibition regarding the presiding justice's denial of the defendants' motions for recusal in the matter. The appellate division upheld the Court's denial of defendant's motions for recusal which argued that Justice Anson should recuse herself from hearing the case due to a familial relationship with a traditional leader.

The court set a hearing on the state

defendants' motion to dismiss for August 25, 2016. Shortly before that hearing, the plaintiffs filed a Motion for Relief from Order Granting TRO and Order Granting Evidentiary Hearing on Motion to Dismiss. On September 8, 2016, arguments were heard on that motion and the court denied it. Addressing that issue, the court noted that it found it appropriate to accelerate the hearing on the motion and hold a preliminary hearing on the issue of standing based on cited legal precedent.

The court then moved on to the hearing on the state defendants' motion to dismiss for lack of standing. This Order follows. As a preliminary note, defendant Young Sun filed its own Motion to Dismiss on September 7, 2016, one day before the hearing on the state defendants' motion to dismiss. The plaintiffs filed their opposition on September 19, 2016.

Because the arguments were substantially similar to those of their co-defendants, its argument was heard during the hearing, and the court does not feel the need to hold further hearings on the issue, yesterday's order also discusses and applies to Young Sun's pending motion to dismiss.

Barring any unforeseen motions or legal actions by either side, the next hearing, which has not yet been scheduled will move on to the meat of the issue to decide whether or not the Court should issue a permanent injunction against the planned sea cucumber harvest.

...Extradition

Continued from front page

claims that she had been raped seriously because she was an inmate. It claims that instead the State warned Siugpiyemal about pending charges in time for him to retaliate against the inmate by colluding with another guard to falsify the results of a urinalysis and then to escape to Yap before he could be arrested.

News articles that were published after the victim filed the civil suit in early July of this year said that Myles Breiner, her attorney filed the suit because the statute of limitations was running out.

According to the extradition complaint filed by the FSM Department of Justice, the statute of limitations for the charges Siugpiyemal faces is three years. According to Hawaii statutes, that limitation does not run anytime the accused is continually absent from the State as Siugpiyemal has been since October of 2014.

Apparently US Marshals have been searching for Siugpiyemal since the indictment was handed down and only found him after a request for extradition was filed.

Since 2003, when the Compact of Free Association was amended, the FSM has had a mutual agreement with the US for extradition where offenses are serious enough to warrant at least one year of incarceration and where laws prohibiting an offense exist in each of the two countries. The last FSM citizen extradited from the FSM to the USA was in 2005. In 2010, a US citizen was extradited to the FSM to face criminal charges.

The hearing on the extradition complaint began on September 19, but Siugpiyemal had only had a few moments with his attorney before that time. FSM's attorney, Clayton Lawrence agreed that was not sufficient time and suggested that Siugpiyemal should have more opportunity to meet with this attorney. The hearing was deferred until September 20 at which time Siugpiyemal agreed to waive a hearing and submit to extradition.

"On September 20 the court found that there was probable cause for Siugpiyemal's extradition," wrote Clayton Lawrence on behalf of the FSM Department of Justice. "We expect, as we would with any of our citizens, upon his surrender to the United States Government, Mr. Siugpiyemal be provided effective legal assistance, and he be afforded due process and a fair proceeding for those crimes for which he was sought."

State-wide ban on Betel Nut consumption First of its kind in the FSM

Peilapalap, Pohnpei: September 16, 2016 - On Friday September 16, 2016 Governor Marcelo Peterson signed the historic BETEL NUT legislation that was unanimously and recently passed by the Pohnpei State Legislature.

The historic legislation prohibits anyone to consume or chew betel nut in government offices, buildings, vehicles, boats, ships and other public gathering settings including Churches and traditional houses (Nahs). The bill also prohibits businesses to sell betel nut to minors under the age of 18. Furthermore, anyone who is in violation of this law will be fined, put in jail or both.

Pohnpei Swear-In Ceremony

Office of the Governor- September 16, 2016, The Honorable Marcelo K. Peterson, Governor of Pohnpei, administered the Oath of Office to the newly appointed Director of Treasury and Administration, Mr. Feliciano M. Perman. Governor Peterson also administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Antonio John, for Board of Directors, Pohnpei Utilities Corporation; and Mr. Rullens Phillip, Mr. Salvason Salvador, and Mr. Johnny Musrasrik, for Board Members of Small Business Guarantee & Finance Corporation. Mr. Robert Hadley also received the advise and consent from the 9th Pohnpei State Legislature to be a Board of Director for Public Transportation Authority, but was not present during the ceremony.



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President Christian Addresses 71st Session of United Nations General Assembly

FSM Information Services

September 21, 2016 (New York, New York) - Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) President Peter Christian delivered FSM's national address before the 71st session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). He focused on themes of global peace and security, reform and modernization of the UN, climate change, and oceans.



President Christian began his remarks by congratulating Peter Thomson, Permanent Representative of Fiji to the UN, on his election to the Presidency of the UNGA for the 71st session, calling it a historic occasion for Pacific islands. He next thanked the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who is finishing his term this year, for being a champion of many issues important to Small Island Developing States (SIDS), such as increasing political momentum to address climate change.

President Christian condemned the spread of terrorism worldwide. He said it pained him to see millions of innocent civilians desperately seeking shelter from the turmoil of war. He called on the UN Security Council for a stronger response to this global crisis. He also challenged the United States and Russia, as well as the Syrian government, to do more to stop the violence in Syria. The President also condemned North Korea's ongoing provocative actions and rhetoric, which could threaten the peace and long term stability of the Asia Pacific region.

The President called for reform of the UN, citing the need for modernization of principles and practices as well as technologies. The UN must focus on preventive diplomacy around the entire world and not only address hot spots; it should act more as a peacekeeper than a peacemaker.

With respect to the UN Security Council, the President emphasized that the Council must adapt to modern times and be reflective of contemporary geopolitical realities. He reiterated the FSM's support for the G4 countries (Brazil, Germany, India and Japan) to become permanent members of the Council. He also expressed support for appointment of a Special Representative in the UN system to be

dedicated to climate change and security.

President Christian observed that a number of milestone agreements were adopted this year: on disaster risk reduction, financing for development, the 2030 Development Agenda, and the Paris Agreement on climate change. He said that integrating the sustainable development goals (SDGs) into national plans will be challenging for SIDS and that they must be fully included in the relevant UN processes.

On oceans, the President explained that the FSM is custodian of some of the world's richest marine resources. Under the Micronesia Challenge, the FSM has pledged to conserve 30% of its near shore marine areas. These conservation efforts also enable FSM's sustainable use of its oceanic fisheries.

On climate change, President Christian acknowledged that progress has been made in the last 25 years, but not enough. The President called attention to the ratification of the Paris Agreement by more than 30 countries, including virtually all Pacific islands. This raises hope that the agreement will enter into force soon, although implementation will require higher levels of both climate mitigation and climate finance ambition. Regarding the proposed amendment to the Montreal Protocol to phase down HFCs, President Christian reiterated his thanks to co-sponsors and other supporters who have helped bring the process of negotiating an HFC amendment to its final stages.

The President welcomed the progress in diplomatic relations between the United States and Cuba and urged an acceleration in the process towards lifting the embargo on Cuba. He noted that the FSM and Cuba have also established diplomatic relations. President Christian also applauded the peace accord in Colombia and offered his sincere hopes for its success, punctuating this sentiment by saying "Viva Colombia!"

As Chair of the Pacific Islands Forum, President Christian concluded his speech with a brief report of the 47th meeting of the Forum. He related outcomes of the meeting with respect to the themes of oceans, health, human rights, fisheries (including illegal fishing), partnership and climate change, all of which are contained in the Pacific Islands Forum Communiqué. He also reported that Forum leaders endorsed the Pohnpei Oceans Statement: A Course to Sustainability.

President Christian's full statement and video of his speech is available at: <https://gadebate.un.org/en/71/micronesia-federated-states>

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President Christian addresses 3rd “Our Ocean” conference

FSM Information Services

September 21, 2016

Washington, DC, USA - President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) Peter Christian delivered remarks to a high-level audience during the first day of the 3rd Our Ocean conference, hosted by United States Secretary of State John Kerry. The purpose of the annual Our Ocean conference is to catalyze actions to protect our shared ocean resources and empower a new generation to lead the way toward a healthy and sustainable ocean.

The President was the first to speak on the panel entitled Global Ocean Leadership, which also included Mauritius Prime Minister Ameenah Gurib-Fakim and four Vice Presidents and Foreign Ministers. He set the scene by relating the outcomes of the 47th Pacific Island Forum (PIF) Leaders' Meeting held in Pohnpei last week, including the Forum Communiqué, which contains an Annex entitled the Pohnpei Ocean Statement: A Course to Sustainability. This statement emphasizes the centrality of oceans for Pacific peoples and livelihoods, and it highlights the importance of achieving the targets under Sustainable Development Goal 14 to secure the health and productivity of the oceans and the wellbeing of future generations. As current Chair of the Forum, he also reiterated his welcome to the newest full members of the Forum, French Polynesia and New Caledonia.

For audience members at the Our Ocean conference who were unfamiliar with the FSM, the President said in jest that one way to get to there would be to board a flight from Hawaii to Sydney and, about 8 hours into the flight, jump out of the

right side of the plane and land right in Micronesia. Further to the FSM's geography, he said that the land mass of the islands is small, but the area of ocean that the FSM governs is vast enough to comfortably fit the entire United States. He reflected on how fishing practices in FSM waters have changed with the advent of new technologies, especially those that allow fish to be frozen and stored. This has not only caused stress on coastal resources and biodiversity, but, in some cases, it has also diminished neighborly relations, which were once generous with respect to sharing daily catch.

President Christian concluded his remarks with an emphasis on the connection between climate change and ocean health. In this regard, he thanked representatives of the global community for their support to successfully adopt the Paris Climate Agreement, which the FSM officially ratified on September 15, 2016, in advance of the September 21 United Nations (UN) Secretary General's high-level event on accelerating the Agreement's entry into force.

Throughout both days of the Our Ocean conference, an important aspect was the contribution of specific commitments to protect the ocean by many participants, including States, non-governmental organizations, scientific entities and foundations. Between sessions, many representatives of these States and organizations briefly took the floor to verbally announce their commitments. The list of commitments and programs can be found on the Our Ocean website.

On September 14, the evening before the Our Ocean conference commenced,



President Christian also delivered remarks at Pacific Day, an event hosted annually by the Pacific embassies in Washington, DC and held at the New Zealand Embassy to the United States. In his remarks entitled “Small Islands, Big Ocean”, he placed a strong emphasis on climate change, referring to it as a “titanic challenge”, and calling on global leaders to stop resisting the science and do the right thing for planet Earth. He also related the key outcomes of the 47th PIF Leaders' Meeting and highlighted the recent designation of Nan Madol as a World Heritage site by the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

The President's delegation to Washington, DC, included FSM Secretary of Foreign Affairs Lorin Robert, Secretary of Resources and Development Marion Henry, Secretary of Justice Josés Gallen, Director of Office of Environment and Emergency Management (OEEEM) Andrew Yatilman, Executive Director of the National Oceanic Resources

Management Authority (NORMA) Eugene Pangelinan, and the President's Chief of Staff Leo Falcam, Jr.

The 47th Pacific Islands Forum Communiqué is available here: [http://www.forumsec.org/resources/uploads/embeds/file/2016_Forum_Communique_11sept\(1\).pdf](http://www.forumsec.org/resources/uploads/embeds/file/2016_Forum_Communique_11sept(1).pdf)

Annex 3 of the Forum Communiqué, the Pohnpei Ocean Statement: A Course to Sustainability: <http://www.forumsec.org/resources/uploads/embeds/file/Annex%203%20-%20A%20Course%20to%20Sustainability.pdf>

The list of commitments made by Our Ocean participants is available here: <http://ourocean2016.org/commitments/#commitments-main>

Video of Pacific Day (President Christian's remarks begin at the 31:00 mark), available here: <https://www.csis.org/events/pacific-day-2016>

Training for Japan provided excavators at Pohnpei Transportation Authority

From September 12 to 14, 2016, training for recently provided new excavators was held at Pohnpei Transportation Authority. Through Japan's Non-Project Grant Aid, 3 excavators were provided to PTA, Pohnpei, TPW (Transportation & Public Works) in Yap, and TPW (Transportation & Public Works) in Chuuk. Mr. Takase, a technician/trainer from Hitachi Corporation and Ms. Nemoto, a supplier of the Excavators came from Japan and hold the 3-days-training. Total 13 operators including PTA, Pohnpei and TPW, Yap participated the training.

Ambassador Horie attended the training with Pohnpei States Governor Peterson. Later, he visited U Municipality and observed how the excavator was actually operated. The 35t gigantic excavator scooped large amount of dead coral from the sea and smoothly loaded them on land. The powerful and quick move of the excavator made all the observers at the site impressed.

Mr. Swingly Poll, the technician from PTA mentioned that it used to take much effort and time to gather coral from the sea, which was used to fix and maintain the road, but it would be much easier to do it with the newly procured excavator. He also conveyed his gratitude to Ambassador Horie about Japan's continuous cooperation for FSM's economic and social development.



With A Recently Provided Excavator (35t) Trainees from Yap and Pohnpei, Ms. Nemoto, PTA Commissioner Mr. Martin, Mr. Takase, Governor Peterson, Ambassador Horie and EOF Staff Mr. Oda

A discussion with the Falalop Disaster Committee (DisCom)

By: Emma Jidinger
Monitoring & Evaluation
Consultant for IOM

“After Typhoon Maysak we will be better prepared for the next one.” - A DisCom member reflects on how the community has developed a stronger structure to prepare and respond to disaster.

Formation of the Disaster Committee

After typhoon Maysak ravaged the island, the Falalop community came together under the lead of IOM-implemented and USAID/OFDA-funded Climate Adaptation, Disaster Risk Reduction and Education (CADRE Plus) program to discuss how to better prepare for disaster. A Disaster Committee (DisCom) was established alongside a community action plan (CAP) incorporating past procedures, new strategies and the roles and responsibilities shouldered by each member. More importantly, as one member pointed out, the CAP included plans for drought, stormy weather and epidemics and “is inclusive of all. In the plans, the first that have to be moved to

shelters are persons with disabilities, elderly and small children”.

The Disaster committee in action

When a storm closes in on Ulithi, DisCom members ring the community bells alerting the community that they need to move to secure shelter locations. Before the DisCom was established, the procedure was simply to encourage people to move to concrete buildings. Today the DisCom does not need to tell the community members which houses are safe, they simply need to sound the alarm. Each family has been assigned a location, which they are expected to go to when the alarm is sounded. When having reached the shelter, all community members are counted. If the head count is incorrect, the search and rescue team is alerted. With help from the CADRE Plus team, the community recently practiced an island wide drill to make sure that everyone knows what to do and where to go when a typhoon closes in on the island. On another occasion IOM further invited the Red Cross to teach community members basic first aid, and the EPA

assisted in creating material for a water capture and quality training, both offering invaluable expertise that may save lives.

A vigilant and prepared community

Throughout the discussion, community members expressed their appreciation for the CADRE Plus team’s assistance. Especially as DisCom members believe that their work with the CADRE Plus team helped the community realize its

own capacity: “I think the knowledge has always been there, but now people are more concerned and more aware.” All members also agree that a committee is the best tool for the community to remain vigilant and ready to respond to disaster. Preparing for disaster is considered good practice and all DisCom members are of the opinion that it is better to prepare, than to respond.



Water catchments and reversed osmosis units installed by IOM help the community salvage clean rainwater and transform salt water to drinking water.

Photo credits: Emma Jidinger



Falalop community must remain vigilant and ready to respond to disaster as it is not easily accessible, the only way for the community to import resources is via small planes, or long boat rides.

Photo credits: Emma Jidinger

FSM licensed Captive Insurance Company donates to promote FSM Sport during Liberation Games

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

September 12, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—A Japanese company that holds a license for a Captive Insurance Corporation held a reception at Cliff Rainbow Restaurant to commemorate the donation of approximately \$9,000 in volleyball equipment to the Pohnpei Sports Council for further promotion of the sport.

“We learned from MRA (Micronesia Registration Advisers) that Pohnpei Sports Council conducts a major Volleyball



Championship and the final game would be held on September 11. We volunteered to be sponsor of the tournament with contribution of prizes,” said President Yasuyuki Fujishima of Mutual Service Aid Guarantee Corporation, MAI.

“As Rio de Janeiro Olympics have just ended, Tokyo Olympics will be held in 2020. We’ve heard that the FSM sent their first delegation to the Sydney Olympics in 2000. We hope that many delegates will be sent to the Tokyo Olympics in 2020 as well,” he said. “It gives us great pride and pleasure to know that our support and sponsorship may benefit in developing great athletes in the FSM.”

The prizes they donated were:

- 10 volleyball Nets and 50 volleyballs: 180,000yen (\$1,765)
- Participation Awards for all players: 290,000yen (\$2,840).
- 24 Uniforms for each winning men’s and women’s team, 24 pairs of Sneakers: 360,000yen (\$3,530)

And, a Banner of MAI Sponsorship: 30,000yen (\$290)

“Because MAI is on a right track for making profits steadily, we reached to an idea to contribute part of profits to the FSM,” Mr. Fujishima said. “We believe that the reason of this success being the great investment environment of Federated States of Micronesia.”

MAI established a Captive Insurance Company in the FSM on August 22, 2014.

MAI has listed capital of \$10 million. The current directors are:

President Yasuyuki Fujishima
Vice President Nobuaki Terasaka, Advisor of Mutual Service Aid Guarantee Corporation and,
Vice President Sugiyama Yukichiro, Chairman of Ainet Co., Ltd.



MAI President Yasuyuki Fujishima shares an encouraging moment with Kitti Volleyball coach Macpherson Alfons



“Since I served as Japanese Ambassador to Panama from 1997 to 2000, I’m well aware of the importance of developing a friendly relationship between two countries. Therefore, I was inaugurated as Chairman of FSM Captive Insurance Council in September last year. I am currently working on supporting the MRA Seminar in Tokyo this year. And it is my wish that I will continue trying to contribute to the development of exchange of FSM and Japan,” Mr. Fujishima said.

The Federated States of Micronesia establishes diplomatic ties with the United Arab Emirates

FSM Information Services

September 19, 2016

The Permanent Representative of the Federated States of Micronesia to the United Nations in New York, Ambassador Jane J. Chigiyal, signed on 9 September 2016, a joint communique establishing diplomatic relations with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) at a signing ceremony that took place at the UAE Permanent Mission. Ambassador Chigiyal's counterpart, the UAE's Permanent Representative to the United Nation in New York, Ambassador Lana Zaki Nusseibeh, signed the joint communique on behalf of her Government.

The Communique, signed in both Arabic and English, reflects the mutual willingness of both countries to promote mutual understanding and strengthen friendship and cooperation between the two countries in the political, economic, social, humanitarian, cultural and scientific areas. The two countries agreed that their relationship would be guided by the principles and purposes of the UN Charter and international law, particularly respect for equality among States, national sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of other States.

The Communique also acknowledges that the diplomatic relations between the two countries are established in accordance with the provisions of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 18th April 1961.

Before the signing of the Joint Communique, Ambassador Chigiyal took the opportunity to thank Ambassador Nusseibeh

for UAE's contribution to the FSM's sustainable development in renewable energy by the funding of a 600kW photovoltaic plant which was recently inaugurated in May 2016 in the State of Pohnpei. Funding of the project was made available through the UAE-Pacific Partnership Fund with financing provided

by the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development.

UAE now joins Kuwait as the second member state of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) with which the FSM has established relations, and the 78th country with formal diplomatic relations with the FSM.

Federated States of Micronesia strengthens post-disaster needs

16 September, 2016

Yap, Federated States of Micronesia - The cost of disaster is critical in determining the support and impact on countries and the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) has been struggling to determine the full cost of Typhoons Maysak and Dolphin in 2015 and the recent crippling drought.

To support this process, a Post Disasters Needs Assessment training is being conducted for disaster experts from the four states of FSM - Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei and Yap.

The training which begins today in Colonia, Yap, is supported by the Pacific Community (SPC) and the European Union (EU) through the ACP-EU Building Safety and Resilience in the Pacific project.

Widely accepted as the international standard, Post Disaster Needs Assessments are comprehensive assessments that reveal the true cost of disasters by identifying all the impacts and calculating the cost of the damage and associated losses.

the country's ability to improve reporting on the impact of future disasters whilst helping to develop critical data to inform the identification of long term recovery, reconstruction needs and ways to mitigate future hazards.

In supporting the training, FSM's Director of Office Environment and Emergency Management (OEEM), Andrew Yatilman, stated that FSM should be in a better position to fully present the impacts of disasters throughout the islands which has been a challenge in the past.

"It's also going to give participants who are representing the states the foundations to conduct of Post Disaster Needs Assessments and the types of baseline data that needs to be developed in each critical sectors," Mr Yatilman said.

The training will be led by Dr Asha Kambon, a specialist in the Post Disaster Needs Assessment methodology, with support from SPC's Disaster Risk Management Officer, Noa Tokavou.

The event concludes on 23 September.

The week-long training aims to strengthen



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Collaboration Outreach Program: JAA-Pohnpei, Micro-Japan Club, Pohnpei-EPA, Palikir Community

The Pohnpei Chapter under the JICA Alumni Association regrouped as a team on August 27, 2016 and joined hands in adding a "face lift" on three of Palikir Elementary School's main classroom buildings. The chapter members spent the morning part of the Saturday to paint the walls, ceiling, and poles of the classroom buildings as part of their civic action duties under the chapter mandate. The group led by its President, Ms. Universe Yamase was encouraged to continue to serve as members and contribute to the community. In her brief speech to the members, President Yamase thanked each and everyone who participated in the painting activity, and also briefed them on the chapter's past, current, and future activities. Chapter members who were present included President Yamase, V-President Patricia Pedrus and JAA-Pohnpei members who are working for the national and state government, College of Micronesia's Micro-Japan Club, EPA Pohnpei and the Palikir community.



Special thanks to Genesis Hospital for providing the food and drinks for the workers.

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FSM(TC)

U.S. Army welcomes 35 new Micronesian soldiers

Embassy of the United States of America Kolonia

On September 21, 35 F.S.M citizens (thirty-two men and three women) took the oath of enlistment into the United States Army at the U.S. Embassy in Pohnpei.

Following an invocation by Reverend Steward Peter, Joanne Cummings provided opening remarks. Chargé d'Affaires said, "Use every day and every opportunity, and bring new skills back to

your country." F.S.M Deputy Secretary of Foreign Affairs Samson Pretrick followed by complimenting the soldiers on their decision and acknowledging that there is a tough but rewarding road ahead of them and to always remember that they are now ambassadors of two nations - the United States and the F.S.M.

Guam Army Recruiter Sergeant Franklin Naval recognized the future soldiers and Captain Anthony Bamba administered the oath of enlistment.

The future soldiers include: Michelle Akinaga, Svenson Albert, Nathaniel Anson, Anthony Augustine, Renny Bill, Morgan Camacho, Rally Gilmete, Bryan Hadley, Gilroy Henry, Justice Hetiback, Travis James, Russmart Lemuel, Stenson Likie, Rodney Linter, Raden Luda, Markson Manuel, JM Mateak, Fritz Mihkel, Jefferson Nedlic, Seagal Neth, Chance Obed, Jineia Olter, Randy Pelep, Sidney Peter, Trevor Phnouay, Markston Pwohn, Rophael Rongmai, Alex Saperna, Eden Segal, Leeory Sigrah, Frank Sohl, Travis Tihpen, Angeleen Tom, Ryan

Wolphagen and PJ Yens.

The Compact of Free Association enables Micronesians to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces, which they have done honorably since World War II. While serving their three to four year commitment, enlistees will have the opportunity to acquire technical and career-related expertise. Under the G.I. Bill, Micronesian enlistees are also eligible for U.S. higher education tuition assistance and other benefits. Congratulations to all the future soldiers!



Forum endorsement helps PNA to take fisheries management to the next level

Majuro, Marshall Islands 18 September 2016: Endorsement of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement's successful Vessel Day Scheme fisheries management system by Pacific Island Forum Leaders at their recent annual summit in Pohnpei provides a boost to PNA's initiatives to add value to the tuna fishery.

In their communiqué, Pacific Leaders devoted nearly two of the 12 pages to fisheries, underlining the significant role this resource holds for the Pacific islands. "Leaders acknowledged the good work of the PNA in achieving significant increased economic returns," said the Leaders' statement. The Leaders endorsed the recommendation of a Fisheries Task Force "that there is no need to change the management of the purse seine Vessel Day Scheme in the foreseeable future."

The Fisheries Task Force was established following last year's Forum summit and comprised representatives from PNA, Forum Fisheries Agency and the Pacific Community.

During the past year, PNA devoted much time and money addressing concerns about the Vessel Day Scheme (VDS) system of management that were initiated mainly by donor countries. "With the Forum Leaders' unequivocal endorsement of the VDS, we can focus

on continuing to add value to the fishery by creating more economic opportunities for people in the islands to benefit from the industry," said Mr. Ludwig Kumoru, PNA's CEO.

He said the VDS is the single most successful resource management model in the Pacific islands. PNA's VDS is implementing "rights-based" control over fisheries resources in the western and central Pacific. This has improved conservation and management of tuna caught in PNA zones, while increasing the revenue share for the islands from US\$60 million in 2010 to an estimated US\$400 million last year.

The VDS is the foundation for PNA management of the purse seine fishery, which includes requirements of purchasing fishing days at a minimum of US\$8,000 per day, 100 percent observer coverage of all purse seiners, in-port transshipment of tuna, an annual three-month moratorium on use of fish aggregating devices, and other measures.

Earlier this year, an independent review by Toroa Strategy Limited of New Zealand compared the effort-based VDS to a quota limit system and concluded: "The VDS is a fully functioning fisheries management regime without peer for its class of fishery...There is no clear benefit from changing the VDS from a

Day scheme to a catch scheme now or in the near future."

PNA management through the VDS of tuna fishing within PNA zones has limited catches to sustainable levels, said Mr. Kumoru. "As the independent evaluation of the VDS pointed out, the 'VDS is a very successful fisheries management regime by any real world standard.' PNA's challenge now is to take the next steps to increase participation in the fishery and expand the benefits to our islands."

Forum leaders endorsed the agenda of the Fisheries Task Force to: reform the management of the longline fishery; increase the value of employment and ensuring effective labor standards are in place; facilitating investment and trade; and value chain participation.

"These are all areas that PNA has been actively addressing," said Mr. Kumoru. "PNA members began implementing a VDS for the longline fishery in 2015 to bring this fishery under management control."

Pacific, PNA's tuna label, recently launched social guidelines for purse seiners that support standards for fishers working on vessels. It will evolve over time to become a standard requirement for industry, said Mr. Kumoru. "This was

developed with industry and our own technical staff," he said.

The VDS is the platform for encouraging investment, which can be seen in the link between domestically registered purse seiners and locally-based tuna processing plants in Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Marshall Islands, he said.

PNA members are participating throughout the tuna "chain," Mr. Kumoru said. One area for increasing participation of local people in PNA islands is small-scale canning of fish products for domestic consumption. With hundreds of purse seiners transshipping tuna through PNA members' ports, raw material for canning is readily available. "This is a result of PNA's requirement for in-port transshipment," said Mr. Kumoru. "It has created a value adding opportunity for the domestic market." A regional canning training is scheduled for Majuro in October as part of engaging business people in PNA nations in the tuna fishery.

"The Forum Leaders declaration on fisheries is extremely encouraging to PNA members," Mr. Kumoru said. "We will continue expanding opportunities for people in our region to benefit from the fishery."

Education Corner:

Richard Womack, Ed.D

Last E C our beginning teacher Navarro Navarro was offered a 5th grade teaching at Mt. St. Mary's school. He was offered the job on a Sunday and was to begin the next day on Monday morning. He had no teacher training so he is sitting at home that Sunday night wondering just what he would do. Last E C he worried about teaching English and did a lot of praying. This week we find him still sitting and worrying—trying to figure out just what this teaching was all about.

Navarro knew that his success that year would in part depend on the 4th grade teacher. He hoped and then began to pray that the 4th grade teacher had done a good job. He hoped that these 5th graders already knew the multiplication tables, and he prayed that they could all read and write. Navarro had no idea at what level he wished them to read and write at, 5th grade level he guessed but what was a 5th grade level? With all these uncertainties and with no firm answers young Navarro resorted to prayer. He was not a particularly religious man but what else was there to do? He was not pleased with the one he had crafted but he tried it anyway. "Oh dear Lord, I do not even know what to pray for so I will just say I

need a miracle or better yet I will need a series of miracles." The young man thought that while he could not be specific about the miracles, the Lord just might hear his sounds of desperation and grant pity upon him.

At about seven that Sunday evening Navarro sat down at his kitchen table and pulled out his newly purchased briefcase. Inside was a fresh yellow legal pad, a black pen and a red one. Then with black pen in hand Navarro made a giant T on his yellow pad. On the top of the left side he put a big + with his black pen. On the right side of the big T he made a minus sign and for that he used his red one. With closed eyes he began to think of his elementary school teachers and pictured them in his mind. After a few minutes he recalled his high school teachers and then even the college instructors he had only recently known. He was unsure if thinking about college professors made any sense for a beginning 5th grade teacher but he included them anyway. Underneath the large plus sign he wrote in black ink the names of all of the teachers he considered good. The young man was unsure what he meant by good but he started writing names anyway. He began with his first grade teacher, Mrs. Cassettari and he added four other elementary school teachers; his third grade teacher, the sixth grade teacher (his first male teacher), the seventh and the eighth grade teacher. He remembered with a little smile having been placed out in the hallway on several occasions in Mr. Anderson's eighth grade class for misbehaving. But Navarro remembered trying to be the class clown, and Mr. Anderson had been right to punish him by removing him from class. So even though he had been punished and angry with Mr. Anderson at the time, Mr. Anderson was still a good teacher. Navarro then added four high school teachers and one college professor to his list but even with that the list totaled

only nine teachers. He remembered quite a few teachers that were okay, but somehow they did not meet his yet undefined level of good.

He then shifted attention to the bad teachers. At first the young man thought this would be easy because the first name came immediately, Miss Maupin his 4th grade teacher. She was always paddling that poor girl Phyllis. He remembered Phyllis with her coke-bottle glasses and her stutter. Miss Maupin openly called her retarded in front of the class and told Phyllis that she belonged in a special school. After a good whacking, she often made Phyllis wear a sign that said Dunce. Navarro and his classmates quickly figured out that dunce meant retarded so most of the kids took to calling Phyllis-Dunce. Even half-blind Phyllis with her magnified eyeglasses often laughed and even referred to herself as the Dunce. Eric Fisher had said that his mother had told him that Phyllis was likely dropped on her head at birth. Eric's mother told him that since this was the fault of a doctor or some nurse we should not make fun of Phyllis. And she had said that we should not call Phyllis "Dunce." Mrs. Fisher said that Miss Maupin was wrong to be mistreating a retarded person. So Navarro and most of the 4th graders did not like the way Miss Maupin treated Phyllis. And Navarro never understood why Miss Maupin punished the poor girl for something that was not her fault. Miss Maupin sometimes spanked Phyllis for not doing her homework and Navarro was sure that most of the homework was impossible for poor Phyllis to complete. Certainly Navarro recalled the delight of the entire class when one Wednesday morning a permanent substitute took over for the rest of the spring semester. Miss Maupin had locked Phyllis in the classroom closet for not doing her homework and had forgotten to let her out. Luckily Phyllis was found that Tuesday evening by the school custodian as he made his nightly sweep of the classrooms. The permanent substitute never made Phyllis wear the Dunce sign and told the class not to call Phyllis "Dunce." The young man then made his second prayer and this one was very specific—"Oh Lord, please do not have any students like poor Phyllis in tomorrow's fifth grade...I just would not know what to do."

Joint Economic Management Committee 2016 Annual Meeting held in Hawaii

FSM Information Services

September 6, 2016

On August 24, 2016, the Joint Economic Management Committee or JEMCO held its annual meeting in Honolulu, Hawai'i. At the meeting JEMCO approved the FY2017 Compact Sector grant allocations.

The FSM budget request for the health and education sectors were fully funded by JEMCO at \$22,115,289 and \$25,646,846 respectively. This is an 8 percent increase for health and a 6 percent increase for education over the FY2016 JEMCO allocations as the FSM States were able to update their Long Term Fiscal Frameworks to incorporate the increased grant revenue that the National Congress had created by zeroing out the allocation to the National Government under the distribution formula.

The public sector capacity building, private sector development, and environment sectors budget requests were

94 percent approved with 7 small projects not approved and another 5 projects being partially funded. The budget cuts made by JEMCO amounted to \$478,994. This was a considerable improvement over the FY2016 JEMCO allocation which had seen \$1.3 million cut from the State requested budgets. This was a result of States responding to the grant manager's request to ensure requests met JEMCO resolution conditions as well as an overall improvement in the quality of grant proposals.

A significant improvement was once again achieved in the allocation of infrastructure projects with a total of 11 schools and 13 dispensaries for Chuuk. School projects in Pohnpei and Yap were also approved while the key focus for Kosrae over the next three years will be on their new hospital. For the first time since 2012, when accreditation issues arose, JEMCO approved infrastructure projects for the College of Micronesia against the prior year unspent funds. For

the Chuuk Hospital, Yap bridges, and Yap water wells requests, JEMCO required additional information before they can consider these proposals. A virtual vote is anticipated by FSM on these before the end of the 2016.

For FY2017 prior year unallocated sector grant assistance for the States of \$19,493,559 in project grants was requested. JEMCO made an initial allocation of \$11,619,445 of grants, and as with the infrastructure sector, there were some technical issues with some grant requests and it is anticipated that a further \$6 million will be approved by JEMCO before the end of 2016.

Overall, the FSM was very pleased with the outcome of the JEMCO annual meeting and acknowledges the hard work of officials in both FSM and OIA for ensuring grant allocations lived up to State budget expectations. The onus will now be on the State Governments to implement their budgets in a timely and effective manner.

**THE NEXT ISSUE OF
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Pacific highlights shipping as lifeline on World Maritime Day 2016

29 September 2016

Suva, Fiji – On World Maritime Day today, the Pacific Community (SPC) is joining with Pacific Island countries and territories to highlight the unique place of shipping in the region with the message: ‘shipping is the lifeline of Pacific Island countries and territories’.

United by ocean like no other region on Earth, communities in the Pacific Islands depend on shipping to supply essential goods and commodities, such as food, fuel, building materials and vehicles, and to provide access to international markets for exports.

More than 90 per cent of trade in the Pacific Islands region is carried by ships, and the region’s world renowned seafaring

heritage has built up over hundreds of years.

The 2016 global theme, ‘Shipping: indispensable to the world’, was chosen by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to focus on the critical link between shipping and society, and to raise awareness of the relevance of the IMO’s role as the global regulatory body for international shipping.

SPC’s Economic Development Division is joining in the celebrations by hosting a half-day forum in Suva, Fiji, with representatives of numerous Pacific Island countries to value the essential role of shipping in the Pacific and discuss cross-cutting issues such as health, women in maritime, ocean governance and maritime training and education.

Matson Pays Tribute to Micronesian Master Navigator Vessel named in honor of Pius “Mau” Pailug to navigate and serve Pacific islands

GUAM, Sept. 17, 2016 – Matson, a leading U.S. carrier in the Pacific, yesterday continued its 20th Anniversary celebration in Guam and Micronesia with a special vessel naming ceremony honoring one of Micronesia’s most renowned navigators – Pius “Mau” Pailug, fondly known in the Pacific navigation community as “Papa Mau.”



Members of the Pailug family arrived from islands throughout Micronesia to attend the ceremony at the Port Authority of Guam, and members of the Yapese community on Guam honored Pailug’s memory with traditional performances as the vessel was officially blessed and named “Papa Mau.”

“Matson is proud to christen the newest vessel in its Guam / Micronesia service Papa Mau in honor of ‘Mau’ Pailug’s singular influence in the perpetuation of traditional wayfinding and celestial navigation,” said Bernadette Valencia, Matson General Manager for Guam and Micronesia. “As the Papa Mau navigates the islands in the Pacific for many years

to come, we will be reminded of ‘Mau’s’ far reaching legacy.”

Pailug, who passed away in 2010, was from the island of Satawal and widely known for sharing his knowledge with navigators throughout the Pacific. In 1976, he guided the crew of the Hawaii voyaging canoe Hokule’a on its historic 34-day voyage from Hawaii to Tahiti using nothing but traditional navigation methods.

Nainoa Thompson, Hokule’a navigator, president of Polynesian Voyaging Society and one of five Hawaii navigators upon whom Pailug bestowed the traditional master navigator title of pwo in 2007, said of the ship naming, “It honors his name, his legacy and what he has done for all Pacific people.”

FSM R&D says that Trade Fair during PIF was a success

FSM Information Services

On September 7-9, 2016, the FSM Department of Resources and Development with the assistance of Pacific Islands Trade and Invest, New Zealand, held the first and successful Nationwide Trade Fair. The exhibition was scheduled timely as it coincides with the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Meeting, which was held in Pohnpei on September 7-11, 2016.

The Trade Fair was intended to showcase and promote the various and high quality FSM made products ranging from clothing (Chuukese Mumu/Pohnpeian Skirts), handicrafts, agriculture (Kosrae Banana Chips and Paper Products) and marine products to participants and delegates of the PIF Meeting. Thus, a few selected producers from across the four states were gathered in Pohnpei on September 4th in preparation of the event.

On the morning of September 7th, His Excellency, President Peter M. Christian visited the booths and was impressed by the quality of the products. FSM First Lady Mrs. Maurina W. Christian, lead other first ladies who accompanied their husbands to the Trade Fair and many of them left with bags of souvenirs. Throughout the three days, the sales were not as much as expected but some

vendors have managed to solicit orders/projects that could worth more than \$20,000.

The first nationwide Trade Fair also highlighted the launching of the “Buy FSM Made” campaign. This was made possible with the generous assistance of the Pacific Trade and Invest, New Zealand by providing “Buy FSM Made” stickers which were lodged on every product sold during the fair. In addition, the Auckland based PT&I also conducted a workshop focusing on interaction and participation of vendors at a Trade Fair.

The turnout was a success for the FSM market and to each of the vendors, as many of them sold a good number of items to the visiting delegates and introduced and promoted their products to consumers from other markets across the Pacific.

In addition to the assistance of the Pacific Islands Trade and Invest, the FSM Department of Resources and Development was supported during the Trade Fair by the Pohnpei State Government Department of Economic Affairs and the Hub and Spokes II Programme funded by the EU, ACP Secretariat. Below are some pictures of the products displayed at the fair:



For more information, please contact the Department of Resources and Development at telephone number (691) 320-5133.



Remarks from around the Pacific region for World Maritime Day 2016

Pacific Community (SPC)

“World Maritime Day has particular resonance in the Pacific Islands region, given the reliance of our communities on dependable, affordable and efficient shipping services,” SPC’s Deputy Director of Transport, Thierry Nervale, said.

“Pacific Island countries also share many of their well-qualified seafarers sailing all over the world on ships trading internationally, and therefore, this day gives an opportunity to value their engagement and remember that they are also indispensable to the world,” Mr Nervale added.

Fiji
Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji’s Chief Executive Officer, John Tunidau, said that this year’s theme is important for Fiji as the shipping industry continues to grow in size and number and ships have transformed through the years into a viable, more sustainable and economical means of transportation with 95 percent of cargo being transported by sea.

Kiribati
“We need ships not just to exchange goods but to transport people as well thus, we require that such journeys be conducted in a safe manner on well maintained and manned ships; steering standards in the right direction has been our contribution to domestic and international shipping and we’ll continue doing it in the future,” Captain Superintendent of Kiribati Marine Training Centre, Boro Lucic, said.

Since 1967, Kiribati Marine Training Centre has trained more than 5,000 seafarers engaged in international trade and will celebrate its 50th anniversary next year.

Papua New Guinea
National Maritime Safety Authority’s General Manager and Chief Executive Officer, Paul Unas said that Papua New Guinea also marks the day to recognise the efforts made by the maritime sector and the industry in being an enabler for world trade.

“Papua New Guinea has adopted numerous IMO conventions, the three main being: International Convention

for Safety of Life at Sea, International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships and International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers,” he added.

Samoa
Head of School for Maritime Training Samoa, Fatu Lafoai said that the Samoa Transport Sector Plan is aligned with the theme of this year’s World Maritime Day and the Samoa government development strategies embrace the development of the transport sector, which includes the development of the School of Maritime Training and Marine Environmental Research.

Solomon Islands
The Solomon Islands Maritime Safety Administration (SIMSA) Acting Director of Marine, Captain Tim Harris said that shipping is indispensable at the national level, yet, in the Solomon Islands there is a tendency to take shipping services and our safety at sea for granted.


The status of seafarers is being raised and the comprehension of the importance of

the work of SIMSA is becoming more widely recognised.

Captain Harris further stated that Solomon Islands has the fifth largest sea area in the Pacific and 23rd largest in the world; with the help of the Government, SPC, SPREP and IMO, SIMSA will continue to strive to raise the consciousness of all citizens to recognise that shipping is indispensable to the world.

Vanuatu
Vanuatu Maritime College Principal, Richard Coleman, said that the people of the Pacific Islands know more than any other regional group about the importance of the sea for providing trade routes between islands and nations, as well as for populating and cultivating the far flung areas of the Pacific.


“Pacific Islanders were the first explorers and navigators of the seas, and we wholeheartedly share the view that shipping is indispensable to the world,” Mr Coleman added.




Muslims for Peace

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"Whosoever killed a person... It shall be as if he had killed all mankind; and whoso gave life to one, it shall be as if he had given life to all mankind."
The Holy Quran (5:33)



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EU and the Federated States of Micronesia Sign Visa Waiver Agreement

The European Union (EU) and the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) signed a short-stay visa waiver Agreement on Monday, 19 September, in New York within the margins of the United Nations General Assembly.

The new visa waiver regime applies as of 20 September and provides for visa-free travel for EU citizens when travelling to the territory of the Federated States of Micronesia and for citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia when travelling to the EU for a period of stay of 90 days in any 180-day period.

The Agreement will encourage people-to-people contacts, boost tourism, and invigorate business between the EU and the Federated States of Micronesia.

In order to benefit from visa-free travel, citizens from the EU and the Federated States of Micronesia must be in possession of a valid ordinary,

diplomatic, service/official or special passport.

The visa-free travel applies to all categories of persons and for any kind of purposes of travel (for instance tourism, cultural visits, scientific activities, family visits, business etc.), except to persons travelling for the purpose of carrying out a paid activity.

The Federated States of Micronesia joins the Republic of Marshall Islands, Vanuatu, Samoa, Tonga, Palau, Kiribati and Tuvalu for the visa-free travel to the EU.

Ireland and the United Kingdom will not be subject to the application of the Agreement, in accordance with the protocols annexed to the EU treaties. The visa regime to these member states remains subject to their national legislation.



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