

# The KASELEHLIE PRESS

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## Pohnpei celebrates World Food Day Trade Fair & International Day for Disaster Reduction



See Contest Winners on Page 15



Andrew Yatilman, FSM's Director of the Office of Environment and Emergency Management addresses the crowd. His address was translated into sign language.

### International Organization for Migration

The International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR) and World Food Day (WFD) in the FSM was recognized through a major public event in Pohnpei on Wednesday, October 16. World Food Day has been celebrated in Pohnpei with public activities since 2004 and since 2011, the Joint Risk Management Network (JRM-N) has also organized events to remind the people of the FSM to prepare themselves for natural disasters and to raise awareness of the ever-present possibility of natural disaster occurrence.

The event, which kicked off with remarks by Pohnpei State Lt. Governor Marcello Peterson, Chief of Agriculture Adelino Lorens, and JRM-N Chair Andrew Yatilman, was a collective effort of a Committee made up of the World Food Day stakeholders and the JRM Network, a coalition of state and national government agencies, international and regional organizations and local NGOs. All agencies aim to promote community resilience and preparedness in the face of food insecurity and inevitable future disasters, including natural disasters affected by climate change. The event also celebrated the unique heritage represented by local foods and illuminates their role in assuring food security for families even during a disaster event, as suggested by this year's World Food Day theme, "Sustainable Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition". IDDR ceremonies have been held every year in Pohnpei since 2011 in a continual effort to bolster resilience and public awareness, but have only been combined with WFD activities since 2012. In addition, IDDR had its own theme, "Living with Disability and Disasters"; all too often disaster planning at various levels fails to adequately take into account the requirements of individuals with special needs, but this year the members of the JRM Network strove to

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# FSM TC&I submits bill to liberalize FSM telecommunications

By **Bill Jaynes**  
The Kaselehlie Press

October 16, 2013

**Pohnpei, FSM**—A multi-million dollar grant offer by the World Bank to help land a sub-marine fiber optic cable in the FSM State of Yap has residents all a twitter, but the offer comes with strings. FSM must establish legislation that allows for competition in the telecommunications industry.

The World Bank wants the paper work for the grant to be submitted by the end of February 2014, and that paperwork must show that the FSM have liberalized its telecommunications laws to allow for competition.

FSM Telecommunications (FSMTC) executives have gone on record many times to say that they are ready for a competitive market but only “on a level playing field”.

Seemingly as a result of the World Bank offer, the Executive Branch stepped up its game and submitted a 125 page bill to the FSM Congress. (CB 18-77) The text of the bill can be found at [www.fsmcongress.fm](http://www.fsmcongress.fm) under the proposed bills tab of the 18th Congress.

Since the World Bank made its offer, FSM Senators have been under a great deal of pressure from their constituents to liberalize the FSM’s telecommunications policy. Senators are unwilling to quickly pass a very complicated bill that might ultimately backfire just because of outside pressure.

“We will do it but we’ll do it our own way”, Senator Peter Christian, chairman of the Transportation and Communications standing committee said this morning during an informal conversation. When asked whether he thought that the proposed bill accomplishes the elusive “level playing field”, he shook his head and said that he didn’t see it in there.

The bill does attempt to level the playing field through the establishment and the

discretion of a new regulatory authority at the national government. But the bill retains language from the 30 year old law that established FSMTC that requires FSMTC to provide equitable service to all of the States of the FSM. It does not require any potential competitors to do the same. Though our reading of the bill is through layman’s eyes it appears that a potential competitor could come into the FSM market and offer one type of service to only one State if it can get a license approved.

The bill also would make it harder for FSMTC to provide equitable services and pricing FSM wide by explicitly banning the cross-subsidization of markets that has made it possible for FSMTC to spread costs across the nation. The purpose seems clear. In a competitive market, cross subsidization of markets and services would be an anti-competitive tactic that could be used to drive out competitors. What it would mean to the FSM is that FSMTC would have to charge different rates for different States because the cost of delivery of services differs widely from State to State. But FSMTC would be banned from charging a different rate to different States.

To its credit, the bill does specifically ban the practice of a telecommunications licensee charging an artificially low price for its service through regulatory oversight.

During its 30 year history, FSMTC has spent \$107 million on infrastructure. Under the proposed bill, the national government would seize those assets and put them in the hands of the Secretary of the Department of TC&I, and the Secretary of Finance and Treasury. State participation on the FSMTC Board of Directors would be eliminated. Instead the FSM President would appoint a member subject to the approval of Congress. The four remaining members of the Board would be people that the two Secretaries believe are qualified to sit on the board and will be appointed by resolution.

FSM’s executive branch appears to be in a

hurry in order to meet the requirements for the World Bank offer. That could make for some costly mistakes. It already has.

Earlier this year FSMTC officials negotiated a cost sharing plan with Palau in which FSM would pay 1/3 of the cost of any sub-marine fiber optic line that serves the two countries. Palau would pay the remaining 2/3 of the cost. But in September Francis Itimai, Secretary for the FSM’s Department of Transportation, Communications and Infrastructure led a delegation to Palau and negotiated the previous arrangement away. Under the new terms FSM and Palau would each pay 50 percent of the cost of connecting a fiber optic cable.

Because Palau has one of the highest per capita gross domestic products they are not eligible for a grant from World Bank though they are eligible for a low cost concessionary loan. FSM’s new negotiation means that Palau would have to borrow nearly \$10 million less than it would have under the plan previously negotiated with FSMTC because FSM has graciously agreed to give away that amount from the grant the World Bank offered if they are able to meet the requirements of the grant.

Though the telecommunications liberalization bill was only just submitted a few weeks ago it has been in development for a long time. If the intention is to take advantage of the World Bank Grant before it expires, Senators have only a few months to digest the bill and improve it if they think it needs to be improved. If the intention is to improve connectivity and to decrease the cost for FSM citizens which is what the bill says, a great deal of work will need to be done on the telecommunications liberalization bill.

The bill provides for the establishment of an “Office of the Telecommunication Regulation Authority” which would consist of a CEO and two other members, each appointed by the FSM President, though it will likely need a substantial support

staff. The bill limits the number of terms that a CEO could serve and allows for the position to be filled by a non- Micronesian if necessary. A majority of the bill’s 125 pages is spent defining the broad regulatory powers of “The Authority” including the right to search, seizure, and other policing powers.

“The Authority” would be funded by donations from outside funders, appropriations from the FSM Congress, and in large part by the sale of licensing fees to communications operators in the FSM. It’s a layer of expense that does not currently exist and that operators will have to pass on to FSM consumers.

The most recent price increases at FSMTC came after the FSM removed FSMTC’s exemption from paying taxes. According to the proposed bill “The Authority” would be exempted from paying income tax or customs fees.

Another layer of expense will be for lawyers to handle the process of the myriad of negotiations and contractual agreements, and because of the dozens of appeals processes that the proposed bill carefully lays out.

The bill essentially concludes with a description of the processes that would be necessary “should the Secretary (TC&I) certify that it is in the interests of the Federated States of Micronesia for a corporation owned by the Government to be established under this section in order to own and operate submarine and terrestrial cable assets with the Federated States of Micronesia.” Any such new corporation would be known as an “Open Access Entity”.

Again, from a layman’s reading “Open Access Entity” seems to be a corporation designed to do what FSMTC is already doing and yet another layer of expense.

According to witnesses, during a T&C

See “FSMTC” on page 5

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Bill Jaynes  
Managing Editor

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# Mrs. Maria Linda Mendez commissioned as First Honorary Consul of Spain in the FSM

FSM Information Services

October 15, 2013

On October 11, Mrs. Maria Linda Mendez, was officially received by FSM Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Lorin S. Robert, as the Honorary Consul of the Kingdom of Spain in the Federated States of Micronesia in a brief ceremony held at the FSM Department of Foreign Affairs Conference Room.

Secretary Robert welcomed Mrs. Mendez, congratulated her and acknowledged the significance of the event of marking the first official Honorary Consul of Spain in the FSM. As the highlighted of the ceremony, Secretary Robert presented to Mrs. Mendez as Exequatur from FSM President Manny Mori in which the President expressed his consent to and acceptance of her appointment as the Honorary Consul of the Kingdom of Spain in the FSM.



Secretary Robert congratulating Honorary Consul Mendez



At the ceremony Mrs. Mendez was accompanied by her husband, and several other family members

In her remark, Mrs. Mendez expressed her gratitude to President Mori for accepting her appointment and commented on her diverse family background and experiences. She affirmed that it was a privilege and honor for her to take up the Honorary Consul role in the FSM. Mrs. Mendez also indicated that she looks forward to serving and strengthening the cooperation between the FSM and the Kingdom of Spain, two diverse countries with strong historical ties.

Mrs. Mendez is married to Mr. Juan Mendez of Venezuela and they have four children. They live in Pohnpei State.

## New JICA volunteers dispatched to Pohnpei State

Japan International Cooperation Agency

On October 4, 2013, FSM Department of Foreign Affairs welcomes threenew JICA Senior Expert Volunteers to the Federated States of Micronesia. Since 1989, The Japan International Cooperation Agency has been dispatching volunteers into the FSM, assisting priority sectors in Education, Health, Agriculture, Environment, Fishery, Tourism and other fields. Currently, twenty-eight volunteers are serving in the FSM, including the threenew Senior Expert Volunteers who all will serve two years in their respective posts.

The new volunteers are dispatched to the College of Micronesia (COM)-FSM. Located at the Cooperative Research Extension (CRE) Division is Ms. Mitsuko

Mori. Previously, Ms. Mori was a nutritionist at Social Insurance Shiga Hospital for thirty-one years and for the last five years she was an instructor at a nursing school before starting her work at COM-FSM as a Nutritionist. Mr. Toshiaki Sugiura will also work at the CRE Division to support Agricultural Product Processing. Mr. Sugiura was a former high school teacher in Nagano Prefecture for thirty-five years before beginning his post at COM-FSM. Lastly, dispatched to the Division of Trade and Technology (T&T) is Dr. Kazuhide Okada, whom will assist in Telecommunications. His past experiences include working at IBM Japan Incorporated Laboratory and Toyota Motor Corporation for product development.



FSM Department of Foreign Affairs, Ms. Stacy Yleizah, welcomes new JICA Senior Volunteers: Ms. Mitsuko Mori, Mr. Toshiaki Sugiura, and Dr. Kazuhide Okada

## State audit questions Pohnpei's climate change measures

By Bill Jaynes  
The Kaselehlie Press

October 14, 2013

**Pohnpei, FSM**—A performance audit of Pohnpei's Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction measures, particularly in regards to the southern outer islands of Sapwufik, Nukuoro, and Kapingamarangi says that the State's efforts have been woefully inadequate.

"Pohnpei State Government cannot afford to wait (to take) the necessary steps to improve its understanding, management and oversight on climate change issues," the audit which was conducted by auditors of Pohnpei's Office of the Public Auditor says.

Though the audit tends to focus on the efforts of Pohnpei's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and of its Emergency Assistance Office (EAO), it seems to do so by default and points out that Pohnpei has no office specifically charged with coordinating Climate Change responses.

The audit covers fiscal years 2008 through 2012 but Albert Roby, Executive Officer for the Environmental Protection Agency said in his official response that several important steps are in process now including proposed climate change legislation based in part upon landmark legislation that Kosrae adopted. He said that legislation is being reviewed now.

On occasion auditors will remove findings from an audit based on the response of an auditee, but that doesn't appear to have

been the case with this audit.

Auditors found that Pohnpei State did not ensure continuing compliance with the applicable provisions of the Multi State Hazard Mitigation Plan and the Nationwide Climate Change Policy. The audit says that EAO received one-off funding in 2005 to implement the hazard mitigation action under the national plan and developed the State Disaster Management Plan, an emergency response plan. Implementation of the projects never happened. "EAO does not see it as a priority," the audit says.

It says that in 2008, after the unusually high tide of 2007 EPA only performed an assessment of salt water intrusion and its effect on the crops for the southern islands of Pohnpei. EPA took several photos of coastal erosion and crops that were affected by salt water. "It did not use the result of the assessment to develop a plan that is specific to these islands," the audit says.

In his response Roby said that after meeting with the community and other stakeholders it developed plans to deal with climate change impact and planted trees there in order to help stabilize the islands and reduce climate change impacts.

It wasn't enough. "A follow-up assessment was done and indicated that further impacts were occurring as indicated by the evidence of continued erosion and (the) disappearance of some of the smaller reef islands," Roby wrote. He said that EPA provided a copy of the vulnerability and adaptation assessment to the Lt. Governor

See "Climate Change" on page 10

## CPUC continues to move forward

*Chuuk Public Utilities Company*

A number of investment projects are underway to improve operational efficiency for power, water and sewerage. CPUC is gradually improving its financial position, the return to 24 hour power, improvement of water and sewer services and overall efficiency improvements all contribute to this improving position.

There are many challenges facing the ongoing recovery of CPUC, of note are long overdue obligations to Banks and National Institutions, these will start to be addressed by CPUC in FY2014,

On the technical side CPUC is investing in power distribution improvement, power plant rehabilitation, sewer treatment plant rehabilitation and other capital projects to continue to improve the quality of utility service and quality of life for the citizens of Chuuk. Plans for the expansion of service across the state are being developed and CPUC is taking the lead in coordinating activities to ensure that energy policy and action plans are carefully thought through.

Effective 1st November 2013 Chuuk State Government is imposing a service tax on all of CPUC services. Under the Chuuk State tax law CPUC is obliged to collect the tax on behalf of the State and pass it on. When asked whether this a good thing for CPUC, CEO Mark Waite commented that the board is quite clear that "...We (CPUC) must act in accordance with the law, as such our opinion isn't relevant – there has been some opposition to the imposition of the service tax on CPUC services, this was dealt with by due political process and now the law is clear that the tax is payable by CPUC customers. If CPUC doesn't collect the tax on behalf of the Government we would be jeopardising the recovery efforts made over the last three years".

"The impact of the tax on CPUC sales is not known – it may be that we suffer a reduction in CPUC sales as a result - as a service provider we need to remain aware and flexible and focus on our main task of improving CPUC efficiency for the benefit of our customers".

In discussion with the Chuuk State tax office CEO Mark Waite has suggested that a portion of the revenues generated from the tax could be used by the State Government to fund the purchase and implementation of more efficient appliances in Government buildings – this would address the demand side energy efficiency initiatives contained in the Chuuk State Energy Action Plan and would have a positive impact in reducing the State power bills – this would then release State funds for other important purposes.

## International Day of Disaster Reduction Celebrated in Chuuk

*International Organization for Migration*

**Weno, Chuuk-** The International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR) was recognized in Chuuk on Monday October 14th, the first official recognition of IDDR in the state. The event, hosted at the Truk Stop Hotel, was the collective effort of the Disaster Coordination Office, which voiced their commitment to making IDDR an annual tradition, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Department of Health's Substance Abuse and Mental Health Program, the Department of Education, and Chuuk Visitor's Bureau.

Around 80 7th and 8th grade students attended from Iras Elementary School, which is responsible for Weno's special needs students under the Special Education Program, in honor of this year's IDDR theme, "Living with Disability and Disaster". The event opened with an official welcoming from Deputy Mayor Kaio Noket, and included presentations on various aspects of disabilities and disasters from the Disaster Coordination Office, the Department of Health's Substance Abuse and Mental Health Program, and the Department of Education.

In addition, St. Cecilia School's 8th grader Maleha Saimon, Seventh Day Adventist School's 8th Grader Chloe Arnold, and Sapuk Elementary School's 8th grader Martino Hamo gave award winning theme speeches at the event. These students had been the first, second, and third place winners, respectively, of an island wide 7th and 8th grade speech contest which had been open during the week preceding the event.

This event was made possible through the generous support of the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) through the CADRE Program (Climate Adaptation, Disaster Risk Reduction and Education) being implemented by IOM (International Organization for Migration).

For further information contact Mr Ashley Carl, Chief of Mission, IOM at (691) 320 8735 or [www.micronesia.iom.int](http://www.micronesia.iom.int)



## FSM Postal Services puts in tracking capacity and installs new boxes

*FSM Information Services*

**October 11, 2013**

Recently, the Federated States of Micronesia Postal Services Office installed some 1095 new P.O. Boxes at its station in Chuuk State. Installment is expected to be completed very soon. The boxes will be ready for public use upon completion of installment processes.

The FSM Post Master General (PMG), Mrs. Ginger Porder Mida, has indicated that a new box rental rate system-wide will be in effect in the near future.

PMG Mida also confirms that the FSM Post Office is working on ensuring the capability to track outgoing and incoming packages. The office intends to have this service ability by the month of November, 2013.

In the State of Kosrae, a new Post Office facility is being constructed in the State Capital on Lelu. While awaiting the completion of this project, all postal service operations are temporarily located at Weiyak in Tafunsak Municipality.

PMG Mida attended a hearing at the Chuuk State Legislature on September 28 regarding a State Resolution calling for the creation of a post office substation on Tolensom Island in Chuuk State. There has been no conclusive progress made on this resolution.

Madame Mida says through email that all the offices throughout the Nation "will soon have the same color" that creates a new image for the FSM Postal Services as maturing operation. That new image is patterned after the color of the FSM Flag: blue and white.

For inquiry, contact the FSM Postal Services Office at 320-2614 or email [fsmpio@mail.fm](mailto:fsmpio@mail.fm).

## U.S. Government provides \$6.1 million in compact grant assistance payments in September

*Embassy of the United States of America Kolonia*

In August the FSM Department of Finance received Compact Grant Assistance payments from the United States Government totaling \$6,166,132. These payments were for Compact Sector Grants and Supplementary Education Grants as listed below:

Education Sector Grants	\$2,132,854
Health Sector Grants	\$1,693,196
Supplementary Education Grants	\$ 874,339
Enhanced Reporting and Accountability Grants	\$ 541,727
Infrastructure Grants	\$ 456,793

Capacity Building Grants	\$ 211,000
Private Sector Development Grants	\$ 175,000
Environmental Sector Grants	\$ 81,223

Total Amount	\$6,166,132
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This amount is provided as support and development to the States of the FSM and the FSM National Government as follows:

National Government	\$ 468,100
Chuuk	\$2,758,774
Kosrae	\$ 475,001
Pohnpei	\$1,507,257
Yap	\$ 957,000

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# The Search for Superman

## Unifying the F1 Generation in the Fight to Bridge Western Science and Traditional Knowledge Systems in Pohnpei

By Jorg Anson  
Conservation Society of Pohnpei

The term F1 Generation refers to the result of a famous experiment documented by a man named Gregor Mendel. Anyone familiar with general science or even just a National Geographic aficionado should immediately associate Mendel with the discovery of the gene idea, the basic principles of heredity, the law of segregation, terms such as the dominant and recessive alleles, and might be reminded of a certain time in their past when they thought that utilizing the Punnet square was a rather tough tool to utilize in general biology courses.

Gregor Mendel conducted experiments in which he cross-bred plants, usually flowers, of two different colors for example, purple and white. The plants produced sets of offspring that he called the F1 Generation. He would subsequently have flowers of the F1 Generation reproduce to create an F2 Generation and so forth. Mendel tracked the changes in traits within each generation. The letter “F”, which denotes the Latin word “filial”, stands for “son”. But before I elaborate more on the reason why I used the term F1 Generation as the title of this post,

consider the following scenario:

Let’s say that one evening YOU are sitting next to two distinguished gentlemen among a much larger group of Pohnpeians at a gathering—maybe at a sakau market—when the usual “weather predictions for the next day” discussion is brought up. The whole group suddenly turns silent as these two gentlemen position themselves for their conjectures.

Now, here’s the interesting part--while the two gentlemen are both Pohnpeians by blood, one of them has achieved a Bachelor of Science degree in Meteorology with high distinction from a prestigious institution. He has spent most of his lifetime overseas therefore he doesn’t know much about the Pohnpeian culture. Although the group might have earlier felt disinterested while they listened to this “sukuhl laud” guy talk about his plans regarding graduate school, in regards to his weather predictions they have some respect for the gentleman because he works for the one local weather service station on the island.

The second gentleman dropped out of school in the 7th grade. He neither

holds a degree nor can he spell the word “eight”. Quite surprisingly, this gentlemen without the degree possesses what every other men in his community aspire to have. He had the most productive yam and sakau farms and is arguably the most successful pig owner on the island year in and year out. Respected throughout his community, this second Pohnpeian man understands the traditional knowledge systems that have survived from generation to generation. In fact, word has it that if a “Traditional Knowledge System” major at an imaginary “University of Nansapw and Nansed” in Pohnpei existed, this 7th grade dropout would’ve already been holding a “Qh.D.”, surpassing “Ph.D.” by one position in the alphabet.

They make their predictions. The meteorologist says that according to the weather forecast, which is usually based on algorithmic models and intense atmospheric monitoring analyses, the next day is going to be a clear sunny day. He is certain enough of his forecast to weather the storm of jokes from within the group at the market, who ask, “Ar you sure it won’t be partly cloudy with scattered showers like it has been for the past

30 years?” A few other people within the group start to laugh when the dropout gentleman says, “It will rain in the morning” and explains that his prediction is based on the rhythm of a singing sound of an endemic species of gecko (found only in Pohnpei, nowhere else on the planet) several meters away from where the group is seated. He says that the gecko’s singing rhythm usually signifies an early morning rain as the land-sea breezes switch with the rising sun. The group is delighted to hear of such wisdom given by a man so intimately connected to the indigenous way of understanding nature.

Now, I’m sure YOU are curious over who made the right prediction. Well, knowing which one of these two gentlemen who actually made the right prediction is NOT the point. This article is for YOU to acknowledge the notion behind both predictions. Why? Well, we are living in an era where our traditional knowledge systems, like those possessed by the 7th grade dropout, continue to be downgraded due to the advanced westernization of our societies. As our societies evolve, new challenges arise. These challenges are often novel and require innovative approaches in order to provide solutions. We must always embrace our identity as the Pohnpeian people and continue to find ways to bridge the persistent gap between science and our traditional knowledge systems.

We are the F1 Generation. You and I-- the Biology majors at UOG, the Marine Science majors at UH Hilo, the Oceanography majors, the Natural Resource and Environmental Management majors at UH Mānoa, , and others abroad--who are working equally hard to make sure that the future of Pohnpei falls into the right hands.

Cross-breeding these two different types of approach—science and tradition—will inevitably create a group of hybrids. I’m using Mendel’s F1 Generation to represent those hybrids. Let the PURPLE flowers be our traditional knowledge and the WHITE flowers represent Western science. We, the F1 Generation, have a challenge. The challenge is to make sure that the system is set up for the F2 Generation—our children and their futures.

Once we are able to find solutions to “connect the disconnect” amongst ourselves, and decide how we approach the two different flowers, advancing our efforts here in Pohnpei will be much easier. We need leadership. We will need a Superman.

Superman, where are you?

*Celebrating*

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### ...FSMTC

*Continued from page 2*

Committee hearing on the bill two weeks ago, Speaker Dohsis Halbert asked what provisions the bill makes for FSMTC’s \$28 million debt to USDA. Secretary Itimai testified that there are none.

Meanwhile, life for FSMTC is still making plans to implement O3B service in Yap. The scheduled launch of the satellites that will service the FSM and Palau had to be aborted at the last moment due to a technical glitch that meant that the satellites had to be shipped back to the manufacturing plant. They are re-scheduled to launch early in 2014 and FSM will very shortly thereafter be able to access the O3B service for Yap.

FSMTC says that it has been in constant communication with the beta test site for the service in the Cook Islands and says that they have been experiencing some remarkable speeds through the service.

Once O3B is in operation in Yap users will experience low latency “fiber like” speed.

The monthly maintenance cost for a fiber optic line is many times higher than the monthly maintenance cost on O3B.

After the O3B service goes into service in Yap, FSMTC will be able to allocate the bandwidth resources on the satellite that Yap currently uses to Chuuk and Kosrae.

FSM DEVELOPMENT BANK  
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info@fsmdb.fm

**Opening Date: October 15, 2013**  
**Closing Date: November 15, 2013**

## JANITORIAL SERVICES NEEDED:

FSM Development Bank is soliciting proposals for cleaning and janitorial services. Such services will provide high quality, reliable and dependable cleaning services which may include but not limited to sweeping, mopping, restroom/toilet facilities cleaning, trash bins services, glass windows and doors cleaning/polishing and dusting and other cleaning services as may be necessary at its Corporate office premises (building and parking lots).

For illustrative purpose, the following list covers the GENERAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES that the bank may require.

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3. Sweeping of indoor and outdoor parking lot for ground floor and 2nd floor
4. Sweeping of main stairway from first floor to second floor & third floor
5. Sweeping and cleaning of second floor and third floor hall way, balcony floor and parking lot
6. Services (1) to (5) shall be provided Monday through Friday only for four hours daily
7. Sweeping, scrubbing and pressure washing of ground floor parking lot
8. Sweeping, scrubbing and pressure washing of second floor parking lot
9. Services (7) and (8) shall be provided every Saturday, form 8:00am to 5:00pm



At a minimum, all proposals must include complete contact information of the interested firms and details of the proposed monthly cost for services, number of employees and time requirement based on the list above.

All proposals shall be submitted to: The FSMDB Corporate Office in Kolonia, Pohnpei with mailing address as follows: FSM Development Bank, P.O. Box M, Kolonia, Pohnpei FM 96941 by mail; by e-mail: loverh@fsmdb.fm, or in person at the FSM Development Bank's Corporate Office in Kolonia, Pohnpei on or before the closing date above.

The FSM Development Bank is an equal opportunity employer, provider and lender. For Discrimination Complaints, please write to: the Chairman of the Board of Directors, P.O. Box M, Kolonia, Pohnpei FM 96941  
Telephone: (691) 320-2840/5300/2419; Fax: (691) 2842/2056; E-mail: info@fsmdb.fm

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### CHUUK PUBLIC UTILITY CORPORATION IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT: CHUUK STATE SERVICE TAX

Whereas, Chuuk State Law, through the 'Sales Tax Act 2012' imposes a Service Tax of 5% on all services provided throughout the State – this includes services provided by CPUC;

Whereas, The Sales Tax Act also requires that CPUC acts as the collection agent for the State Government – collecting the tax from customers and passing the tax on to the State Government; Whereas, CPUC failure to collect the service tax would place CPUC in breach of the law;

Therefore, the Board of CPUC wish to make all customers aware that effective from 1st November 2013 CPUC, on behalf of Chuuk State Government, will be collecting a 5% Service Tax on all services provided by CPUC;

The Board of CPUC would like to make it clear to all its customers that CPUC is NOT increasing its charges; the additional cost is a tax imposed by the State Government in order to raise revenues to be used to run the State Government for the benefit of the community;

All services provided by CPUC will be subject to the Service Tax;

The Board of CPUC would like to thank all customers for your understanding and continued support of CPUC;

# JICA volunteers restore monument to the unknown soldier on Sokehs Ridge

Japan International Cooperation Agency voluntary work.

About 40 years ago, voluntary group composed with Japanese residents at Pohnpei at that time built a tombstone to console Japanese and American soldiers who died during the "Pacific War", so-called unknown soldiers. Their wish to have eternal world peace was also placed on this construction. However, after the elapse of long time or 40 years, less care having being given to the tombstone left it completely covered with tall weeds that no trace was appeared there, which was a constrain to us.

Upon the circumstances, we, mainly JICA volunteers staying at Pohnpei who found the miserable tombstone there, prepared a "sign board" to set up next to the stone. Team for cleaning of tombstone conducted site visits several times to clear the area and prepare a "sign board" to set up, Site visits included meeting with local authority and community leaders to obtain prior approval of this

The "Sign board" prepared has our wishes that spirits of the deceased Japanese and Americans by the war are consoled and world peace, our strong wish to create our world that will never have war happening again.

The above wishes were written on the board by English, Japanese and Pohnpei language respectively.

On 28 September 2013, the team mainly composed with JICA volunteers visited the site and completed "cleaning and building the sign board". The team received substantial assistances from local Pohnpei people in completing this volunteer action.

The team plans to continue volunteer work at Sokehs mountain area such as making sightseeing boards for visitors looking for remains of World War II.



## National Tobacco Control Action Plan stakeholders meeting takes place in Pohnpei

FSM Information Services

October 7, 2013

A stakeholders workshop for the Federated States of Micronesia National Tobacco Control Action Plan (NTCAP) took place in Pohnpei from 18-20 of September to develop

a multisectoral NTCAP for the FSM. The workshop followed a needs-assessment assistance supported by the World Health Organization (WHO) Convention Secretariat for the international Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. FSM jointly conducted the joint needs-assessment with the Convention Secretariat in November 2012. The needs-assessment report was used as a

reference during the workshop. The FSM National Government participants at the workshop came from the Department of Health & Social Affairs (DOHSA); Department of Resources and Development; Department of Finance and Administration; Department of Transportation, Communication and Infrastructure, Office of Environment and Emergency Management;

Office of Statistic, Budget and Economic Management, Overseas Development Assistance and Compact Management (SBOC); Department of Education and the Department of Foreign Affairs. Participants from the State Governments came from the Attorney

See "NTCAP" on page 10

*Celebrating 30 fsm mtc years of service*

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**<sup>^</sup>ALL DAY EVERY DAY FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER**

# ...IDDR WFD

Continued from front page

highlight and remind families of this important area of concern.

This year's event presentations included a keynote speech by Iso Salvador Iriarte, the Iso Nahniken of Nett, a speech contest for high school students with both English and Pohnpeian categories, a local food recipe contest, a traditional handicraft contest, and an agricultural contest in which local farmers entered their finest crops and livestock. This final contest showcased the huge variety of local foods in Pohnpei with at least half of all varieties of crops being displayed by the farmers. A video will be produced highlighting the crop diversity in Pohnpei and will be used to protect biodiversity and food security into the future. The event was broadcast live on the radio to ensure that people living with disabilities and senior citizens unable to attend could hear the proceedings.

Many members of the public attended the event during the course of the day, including government representatives, members of the international community, church groups, community members, and high school and college students. Shelly Simon, a senior at Our Lady of Mercy School agreed with the importance of the IDDR theme, stating "People often overlook [...]those with special needs[...] times of disaster are desperate times so we tend to overlook [their requirements]". James Lukan of the FSM OEEM stated, "From the looks of it, people are having fun, buying crops, getting educational materials; [it's] a very good public awareness program[...]we've given out a lot of pamphlets, a lot of booklets, answered a lot of questions, also conducted some surveys."

For further information on how your organization can get involved in disaster risk reduction activities in Micronesia, please contact the



OEEM at 320-8814 or IOM at 320-8735 or www.micronesia.iom.int

For further information on local food, nutrition and farming, visit www.islandfood.org or contact Island Food Community of Pohnpei at 320-3259 or Agriculture at 320-2400.

Organizing committee partners: Australian Agency for International Development, College of Micronesia-FSM, Conservation Society of Pohnpei,

Department of Education, Department of Health, Department of Land & Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Agency, FSM Resource & Development, German Technical Cooperation, International Organization of Migration, Island Food Community of Pohnpei, Micronesia Red Cross Society, National Oceanic Resource

Management Authority, Office of Economic Affairs Agriculture, Office of Emergency & Environmental Management, Pohnpei Consumer Organization, Pohnpei Farmers' Association, Pohnpei State Government, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and others.



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President and CEO of Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation, Mr. Lorenzo V. Tan, leads the roster of speakers for the upcoming Conference as Keynote Speaker.



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Keynotes the PRIC

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# New Chuuk hotel, apartments and offices set to open

CHUUK, FSM – L5, the newest hotel in the Federated States of Micronesia, is set to open January of 2014 in Weno, Chuuk. The five-story hotel, conveniently located across the street from the Chuuk International Airport, caters to business and government travelers who expect exceptional service and quality amenities.

“We’ve designed L5 with the experienced business and government traveler in mind. Every aspect of the hotel is geared for the busy executive who requires a welcoming, secure and efficient home away from home,” says Kembo Mida, Jr., President of Khei Mida, Inc., which owns the building and is the developer of the new hotel.

“Our guests can expect to enjoy the comforts and security of a hotel that understands and anticipates their needs. And we will always offer warm, island-style service during their stay at L5,” adds Mida.

The building is the former RS Plaza Hotel, which has been gutted and completely renovated and painted. All public areas, rooms and bathrooms have contemporary paint schemes, ceramic tiles and quality fixtures. The building’s electrical and plumbing systems have been redone. Pressure pumps have been installed to ensure that all rooms have strong, consistent

water pressure. And L5 has an elevator that serves all five floors. The elevator has been inspected, renovated and remodeled, and is maintained by the Otis Elevator Co. of Guam.

L5 has 12 hotel rooms located on the third and fourth floors, consisting of studios and suites. The hotel offers a number of amenities many of which are unique for hotels in the FSM. They include 32-inch LED flat screen televisions in every room and suite, along with cable television service; free wireless Internet connectivity; a complimentary continental breakfast for guests; a catered room- service meal option; an exercise facility; coin-operated laundry centers for guest use; coffee makers in every room; pillow-

top mattresses; and, an Inada full-body massage chair that is available for in-room use.

L5 will also feature throughout the hotel, including in all guest rooms, more than 30 commissioned photographs of Chuuk taken by veteran Pacific journalist Floyd K. Takeuchi.

In addition, the hotel has ample off-street parking and provides 24-hour security, including a surveillance camera system. A porte cochere has been added to allow guests to be dropped off at the hotel entrance while protected from the elements. Valet parking is available.

The building offers four fully furnished

one-bedroom apartments that are equipped with kitchens for short- and long-term rental. They will be ready for occupancy on Nov. 1 2013. Additionally, upgraded commercial retail and office space on the ground floor and second floors will be available December 2012. Hotel guests, and those who lease offices and apartments, will also have access to L5’s conference center on the second floor.

No Ka Oi, a Guam-based pest and termite control company, has treated the building and grounds, and will regularly service the complex.

For more information on L5, including room rates and reservations, visit [www.L5hotel.fm](http://www.L5hotel.fm), or call hotel General Manager Vicky Irons at (691) 330-3774.



Photos by Floyd K. Takeuchi

A standard L5 guest room



The living room of an L5 apartment

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**FAR GRANTS & MATCHING FUND SUMMARY (2004-2012)**

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Frank Lyon, Jr., P.E. Jim Lyon, P.E., LEED AP

## ...Climate Change

Continued from page 3

at the time. Auditors say that they could find no evidence of such a document.

"There is no legislation, regulation or policy on climate change for Pohnpei State and the Disaster Management Plan has not been updated for seven years," auditors found.

It says that the Disaster Management Plan that EAO adopted in 2005 should have been reviewed and updated at least once every three years. Because it has not, the audit says that there is a risk that in an emergency situation related to climate change, the plan cannot be relied upon. "For example, it may not accurately identify who is in charge, the communication channels they should use, the emergency equipment available and (their) location(s), and appropriate emergency evacuation sites," auditors said.

Auditors also found that there was "ineffective management of climate change programs and activities." They said that EPA does not have a climate change adaptation plan, a business plan or any other planning process that involves stakeholders in the planning.

Roby said in his response that EPA did involve stakeholders in its planning. Auditors said that involvement was in 2008 and that they could find no evidence of continuing stakeholders involvement.

"Our review of records and interviews with the local non-governmental organization, community representatives, and EPA personnel disclosed that EPA is lax in its responsibilities relating to climate change and is not taking the lead in initiating projects and educating the communities and the leaders," the audit says.

Though the audit standards were defined in the beginning pages of the audit, some of the comments within it do appear to be quite subjective.

"This lack of action by EPA and EAO occurred due to poor understanding and appreciation of how important and urgent it is for Pohnpei to respond to climate change, and from limited resources (human, funding, and capital) capacity to implement activities," the audit says.

As their fourth finding, auditors found that "project risk assessment, monitoring, and reporting to the oversight body are not performed."

Again, Mr. Roby responded that it had submitted reports. The Office of the Public Auditor could not find any evidence that such documents exist.

"There is a lack of documentation and information regarding climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction," the audit's fifth finding says.

It says that most of the materials they obtained regarding climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction

were from the FSM National Government or other third parties, such as local and international NGO's. They apparently couldn't find much documentation at EPA.

"There is inadequate public education and awareness regarding climate change and its impacts," the audit says as its sixth and last finding of the performance audit.

It found that EPA is not actively involved in the climate change public awareness campaigns though it has a budget to do so. "Instead, the EPA depends on the non-government organizations to perform this activity," the audit says.

"We provided documents reflecting the numerous community meetings, radio programs, school visits and other awareness programs that have been and continue to be conducted by our office on this topic," Roby wrote in his response. "We hope to expand our efforts once funding has been received to develop a media center that would allow us to produce our own awareness material and thus enable us to expand our efforts."

## ...NTCAP

Continued from page 7

General's Offices and staff members from both the Legislative and Judiciary Branches.

Various civil society representatives were in attendance in their various capacities, including memberships on the Tobacco Control Coalitions from both the National and States levels. The Secretary of Health and Social Affairs, Dr. Vita Skilling, and the Assistance Secretary, Mr. Marcus Samo, took time to also witness the meeting.

In her keynote remark, Secretary Skilling emphasized the importance of the needs assessment exercise and encouraged the participants to develop a comprehensive National Action Plan addressing the tobacco control priorities in the country. She underscored how such an Action Plan will serve as a tool in bridging the gap between health education on community tobacco control and how that education process impacts the population.

The FSM President Manny Mori had approved the establishment of a Tobacco Control Advisory Council (TCAC) as a multisectoral national coordination mechanism to implement the WHO Framework Convention.

As its main outcomes, the workshop resulted in the creation of the following : (1) a draft FSM National Action Plan to implement the Framework Convention with 4 modified Action Plan developed by the States participants included as annexes; (2) one resolution endorsed and signed by the heads of delegations, participating States Senators, government agencies, NGOs and Attorney Generals' Offices calling for an increase on tobacco import tax and the allocation of 5% of collected tax to support the Tobacco Control Program; (3) one Tobacco Control Advisory Council; (4) strengthening of the stakeholders knowledge of the FCTC and the ways to put in action its various objectives.

# JOB OPENING

**TITLE:** Conservation Program Manager (CPM)

**CLOSING DATE:** November 11, 2013

### SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES

(INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO):

- Direct and advise the revision and updating of MCT's Grant-Making Strategy for approval by the Board of Trustees. Support and advise the implementation of upcoming external evaluation.
- Issue and implement Calls for Proposals as agreed with the Executive Secretariat. This includes the continued development and improvement of MCT's Grant Tools and Risk Assessment documents and process.
- Responsible for monitoring the implementation of approved projects including gathering and compilation of monitoring and evaluation data from MCT funded projects and distill best practices and facilitate their dissemination to counterparts and partners.
- Responsibility for relations with the Grants Technical Committee, and ensuring the swift assessment of concept papers and full proposals.
- Seek out and identify contacts of mutual interest to MCT and grantees and assist with networking, including identifying learning exchange opportunities, potential donors and technical assistance resources.
- Build strategic partnerships with conservation and other partners, such as donors, foundations, private sector and civil society, in Micronesia and internationally to promote MCT and mobilize resources.
- In collaboration with the MCT Capacity-Building unit, assess the staff and organizational needs of MCT partners and grantees and participate in the development and delivery of capacity-building activities.

### QUALIFICATIONS

**Education:** Advanced university degree in environmental fields, Environmental Economics, Program and/or NGO Management, Business Administration or similar field.

### SUMMARY OF RESPONSIBILITIES

Under the supervision of the Deputy Executive Director (DED), the CPM is responsible for the overall management of the Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT) Conservation Program from program development, financial and technical reporting, to resource mobilization, knowledge management and partnership development. This includes the effective management of the full MCT Conservation Grant portfolio, including advised funds, intermediary grant-making, in lieu fee program, invasive species network support and pass-through grants. Tasks include program strategy development, individual project concept design, technical support to MCT grantees and other partners, monitoring and evaluation - to ensure compliance with the overall approved MCT grant-making strategy and policies, Operations Manual, MCT standards, and advised fund agreements. The CPM will also supervise the Conservation Program staff, including making grant and project assignments and conducting performance evaluations.

**Experience:** At least 5 years of relevant experience in conservation work, which should include program management and the supervision employees, including performance evaluation.

**Management Skills:** Excellent analytical and writing skills, teamwork and people management skills, communication and interpersonal skills and good negotiation and problem-solving skills. Experience with supervising program staff.

**Language:** Fluency in English is required and fluency in at least one of the Micronesia vernacular languages preferred. Fluency in one or more the official languages of the United Nations is also desirable.

**IT Skills:** Proficiency in standard computer software (word-processing, excel, presentations, databases and internet)

### SALARY, BENEFITS, AND DUTY STATION

US\$32,000 negotiable depending upon qualifications. MCT does not provide relocation, housing or repatriation expenses. MCT covers the employer portion of the FSM National health insurance basic plan and offers a retirement plan and life insurance. The duty station for this position is Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia.

### TO APPLY:

**Please provide:**

- Letter of Interest
- Resume
- 3 Letters of Reference

### Submit to:

Lisa Ranahan Andon  
Deputy Executive Director  
Micronesia Conservation Trust  
P.O. 2177 Kolonia  
Pohnpei, FM 96941  
Tel: (691) 320-5670  
Fax: (691) 320-8903  
deputy@ourmicronesia.org

(electronic submissions encouraged)



## FSM outlaws shining laser pointer at aircraft, with exceptions

*FSM Information Services*

**October 15, 2013**

The Federated States of Micronesia 18th Congress passed an act on September 27, 2013, proposing to ban not only the pointing of laser beam to an aircraft but also the possession of laser objects at the airport premises.

President Manny Mori signed the Act into law on October 14, further amending Title 11 of the FSM Code, as amended.

The President's message when signing the legislation says, "Subject to certain exceptions, the Act prohibits possession of laser pointers on airport premises. Moreover, the Department of Justice is authorized to provide by regulation additional exception from the prohibition defined in the act".

Depending on the sections of the law, violations are punishable by specific measures that range from imprisonment for a term of not more than five years or a fine of not more than \$10,000 to imprisonment for a term of not more than 1 year or a fine of not more than \$600. Punishment can also combine both an imprisonment term and an assessed fine.

Some of the named exceptions in the law include use of laser pointers by FAA officials or individuals conducting legitimate experiments at the airport premises or in directing aircrafts.

The legislation can be found among the public laws posted on the FSM Congress website. <http://fsmcongress.fm/18th%20Congress/18th%20CFSM%20Public%20Laws.html>.

## Yap State Department of Health Services: How are we doing against the newly established national standards of Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB)?

Yap State Department of Health Services (YSDHS) sought an opportunity to assess its overall health services by undergoing an Organizational Self-Assessment (OSA) against the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) standards and measures. Although this is an accrediting body in the U.S., its standards are based on the ten public health essential services plus two equally essential components of any health department that deal with the administration and management capacity of the health and the governing body. YSDHS is not eyeing on applying for accreditation in the near future but value this OSA as a way to measure its performance in the different areas of public health. YSDHS seized this opportunity to look within itself to see where areas of improvements are and at the same time to celebrate the many successes in meeting other newly established standards and measures that are used nationally in the U.S. In addition, in the absence of a FSM established standards and measures for any public health provider in the nation, utilizing the PHAB standards is a good way to evaluate the effectiveness of any public health provider in the FSM.

The OSA took place on September 26 and 27, 2013 facilitated by the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) consultant, Ms. Shirley Orr, and U.S. Centers for Disease Control Project Officer for the National Public Health Improvement Initiative (NPHII) Program, Ms. Victoria Rayle. FSM NPHII program staff

assisted in the facilitation process. The assessment occurred on site at the Yap Memorial Hospital.

The OSA, using the PHAB standards and measures review, revealed that the YSDHS has existing capacity in all 12 PHAB domains. In each domain, the OSA process identified potential gaps where specific functions are not currently performed and/or documented. The potential gap priority recommendations for each domain were prioritized by the full group through a multi-voting process.

Listed below are the 12 PHAB Domains with the OSA findings and proposed next steps for any identified gap.

Domain 1: Conduct assessments focused on population health status and health issues facing the community.

Finding: The department has a history of completing multiple program-based assessments but has not gone through any process for a comprehensive state health assessment.

Next step: Complete a state health assessment. The previous program-based assessments can serve as a foundation or beginning point for the comprehensive process.

Domain 2: Investigate health problems and environmental public health hazards to protect the community.

Finding: The OSA revealed strong overall current performance in this domain.

Domain 3: Inform and educate about public health issues and functions.

Finding: The OSA indicates strong overall current performance in this domain.

Domain 4: Engage with the community to identify and solve health problems.

Finding: The OSA indicates strong overall current performance in this domain.

Domain 5: Develop public health policies and plans.

Finding: There is potential gap priorities in Domain 5 include the

*See "OSA" on page 14*

# INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY

## PATHWAYS HOTEL and JM RESTAURANT/BAR

The FSM Development Bank offers a unique investment opportunity to lease and operate a hotel and restaurant/bar in Colonia, Yap State. The business includes 9 eco-bungalows built from traditional materials set on the hillside overlooking Chamorro Bay and a restaurant/bar that has been in operation since 1991. A long term lease for the premises, improvements, fixtures and equipment is available to FSM citizens, non-citizens and businesses through January 2063.



Please contact FSM Development Bank,  
Nora E Sigrah at email:

[noras@fsmdb.fm](mailto:noras@fsmdb.fm)

**PHONE:**

[691] 320-2840

**FAX**

[691] 320-6533

**WEBSITE:**

[www.fsmdb.fm](http://www.fsmdb.fm)



## Guest Perspective

### In the case of Domestic violence, silence isn't golden

October is Domestic Violence (DV) Awareness month. Around the world, many honor DV Awareness month by committing (and recommitting) to speaking out against Domestic Violence.

I want to do the same, by sharing how I ended up doing Domestic Violence work in the islands, something I never envisioned myself doing because like many females growing up in the islands, I never dreamed of speaking out on taboo subjects like Domestic Violence in our islands. With all due respect to my fellow island mates, please hear me out.

Around this time last year I began six weeks in Washington, DC as a fellow under a program sponsored by the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative focusing on women rights issues. The program was one of many events scheduled in the US in observance of 2012 DV Awareness Month. Part of the fellows' work was to observe what has been done in the US and also to take the learning home and apply it to their own countries.

During my weeks of concentrated study in the crossover area between Criminal Law and Family Law I took many notes and collected a lot of learning materials to help me design a plan to effectively combat Domestic Violence in my home country upon my return. I also spent a lot of time thinking about what has not worked and how I could potentially produce an effective campaign in FSM considering how delicate and sensitive the subject of domestic violence has been and the total silence with which the subject has been treated. I knew that discussions about the subject have previously blown up in our faces. I worried about the resistance that can come because of our social norms, and because of religious, cultural, or traditional barriers. I knew all about our male-dominated leadership, and many other challenges.

Quite frankly, I was afraid, but I studied the matter very carefully in order to determine effective ways to deliver our messages to help protect victims. I worried over how I could deliver the message in a way that would "hit home" without our men, women, and societies becoming hostile, or the public becoming side-tracked by unimportant issues.

In May 2013, with financial and technical assistance from SPC, George Isom from SPC and I, along with the officers of Kosrae Women's Association (KWA) organized a two-day workshop on Domestic Violence for a target of 20 participants in the State of Kosrae. They were legislators, KWA officers, municipality representatives, and other people who were interested.

All agreed that the DV101 Workshop on the Elimination of Violence Against Women that the training was a success. To simply allow a safe atmosphere where other women are able to share their thoughts and to think out loud on the subject of domestic violence was a huge undertaking. During the first round of discussions at the workshop, participants hesitated to share their thoughts on DV but by end of the workshop the participants had shared similar DV experiences and sad stories of their

having watched ongoing domestic violence for so many, many years. Some of the stories were told through tears. By the end of the workshop there was a sense of relief because built-in frustration had been let out. The participants committed to help stop the spread of domestic violence.

Still pending before the Kosrae State Legislature (KSL) is a Domestic Violence Bill that was originally introduced in 2008, re-introduced in 2010, and now re-introduced in 2011, as L.B. No.: 10-20. The DV bill passed first reading last year, however it did not pass second and final reading during the past February-March session earlier this year. After much debate, the DV Bill 10-20 was tabled again for further contemplation. After the legislative session of the 10th Kosrae Legislature ended this past March 2013 the Chairman of the Judicial and Government Operations Committee asked KWA to coordinate women-led public hearings in order to allow for continuing education on the bill.

DV work has not had much progress here in the islands. One plausible explanation is that we islanders have been so much in denial. Some of us claim that there is no domestic violence in the islands, and yet surveys, hospital and court records say otherwise. In the islands we seem to think that if we see domestic violence on our right we should look to our left. If we see DV in front of us we close our eyes (and ears). If we hear cries from the neighbors, we close the windows. Our culture tells us to leave the victims and the offenders alone because it's none of our business. Our culture tells us that under the authority vested in those with power in a household, beating as a form of discipline is okay.

The Kosrae Legislature has been debating about defining to what extent one family member can beat up another but hasn't come up with an answer definitive enough for them to pass domestic violence legislation.

For many years, women and children the number one victims of domestic violence in the islands have been afraid to open their mouths and say "Domestic Violence is wrong". The fear they may be inviting more domestic violence beatings if they raise their voices or even talk back. I know that some victims do not want to bring up the subject of DV because it brings back nightmares. Some have even said that if they talk about DV they may wake up dead. So, there is always that hush-hush.

When I was in law school in Hawaii, the topic of Domestic Violence came up in our Family Law class after FSM citizens made the news because a husband beat his wife. Classmates asked, "Why do Micronesians like to beat up their wives and children?"

My mind spun and my heart fought my mind. All eyes were on me, the only FSM citizen in the class. The wanted answer but I was not ready to tell them why. I couldn't let a word out, I felt that if I did it would be a betrayal of my people. I walked out in tears.

I knew DV was wrong, but I did not want them

to attack the offenders because the offenders are my people, my fellow islanders and because I care for the offenders as people but not always for what they do. I had a sense of a strong family bond, community bond, island pride, and at the same time a sense of helplessness because I wanted to stop the insanity but instead just went along with the insanity and hoped and prayed that one of these days the beatings will stop and that we can all learn to live within the light of peace.

Well, as we know, that's not the case. We can continue to hope and pray as this century unfolds but realities remain. The beatings and the violence continue to escalate and most of those suffering are women and children.

Studies show that some children are not doing well in school because of violence at home. Women walk around with cracked bones, they suffer back pain, and permanent injuries. Some complain of chronic headaches, impaired vision. One elderly woman said that her husband likes to hit her head. It's his favorite target.

Someone has to stand up and tell our islands in this part of the world here - DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS WRONG!

It's something that is never taught in school, in church, or in communities. It's never talked about in core families, social or family gatherings. Everyone just goes through the motions. Bruises come and they go, scars appear, and victims are supposed to swallow the pain, move on, and act like it never happened. Victims suffer in silence. Victims cry in silence while the cycle of violence goes on and on.

SILENCE DOES NOT STOP VIOLENCE!

We have to say something. We must do something.

After working as a DV advocate for the past months, I have become more sensitive to the real issues. I feel more driven to continue advocating for those who are the most

vulnerable in our island states—women, children, elderly, disabled, and others who cannot defend themselves from the powerful. I cannot shut out the victims' cries—those suffering in silence.

What have we done as an island-state or as a nation to help those victims? I see zealous advocacy for environmental health of our island states and country. Why shouldn't human rights receive the same attention and treatment?

I remember reading in the news about the shark bill that passed. I asked myself, "What do our sharks have that we women do not have?" I actually experienced a feeling of jealousy. If only our women could receive the same protections that our sharks are receiving.

My work on DV has not been easy, but one of us islanders has to do the work. It is not pleasant work but is very important work that is way overdue. The victims need me. They need you. They need all of us.

Changes must be made. Laws need to be passed to reduce or end domestic violence in this country and to enable more public awareness and educational outreach on the very human problem of Domestic Violence in the islands.

In recognition of Domestic Violence month I humbly ask you, my fellow islanders and all our FSM friends and families, to please agree with me that "Domestic Violence is Wrong". Please tell our policy makers to do something about the problems of DV in our islands.

Just one more favor, please. If you see any of our State senators from Kosrae, would you please tell them that they will be doing the morally right thing if they pass the Kosrae DV law because it will bring more peace in the home.

Peace. It's all DV victims seek.

Menlau. I thank you all, kulona ma lulap.

*Yoslyn G. Sigrah*

### NOTICE To Animal Owners

*Kaselehlie,*

Please take notice that Dr. Joseph will be on Pohnpei to service all your animal's needs on the following schedule.

Tickets have already been purchased, so these dates are as firm as possible.

**Fri July 26 - Sun July 28**

**Fri Sept 27 - Sun Sept 29**

**Wed Nov 27 - Sun Dec 1**  
(American Thanksgiving time)

The Pohnpei Animal Hospital is located across the street from the American Embassy.

If you would like to make an appointment

please email Dr. Joseph  
PacificIslandVet@gmail.com or  
WiseOwl@WiseOwl.net

**Office hrs**

**Day of arrival 2:30 - 5:00 PM**

**Other days 10 am - 5 PM**

**Sundays 10 am - 2 PM**

Clinic Phone 923-1960  
(only on when Dr. Joseph is on island)

*Kalangan,  
Dr. Joseph*



- 47 Swiss city on the Rhine
- 49 Breakfast dish
- 51 Virtuous
- 54 Valerie Harper series
- 56 Type of ax
- 58 Lombardy's lingo
- 62 Downwind
- 63 Hard wood
- 65 Poisonous snake
- 66 Exert restraint
- 67 Fabled fast starter
- 68 Inventor Howe
- 69 Daly of "Cagney and Lacey"
- 70 Lodge members
- 71 Christmas visitor

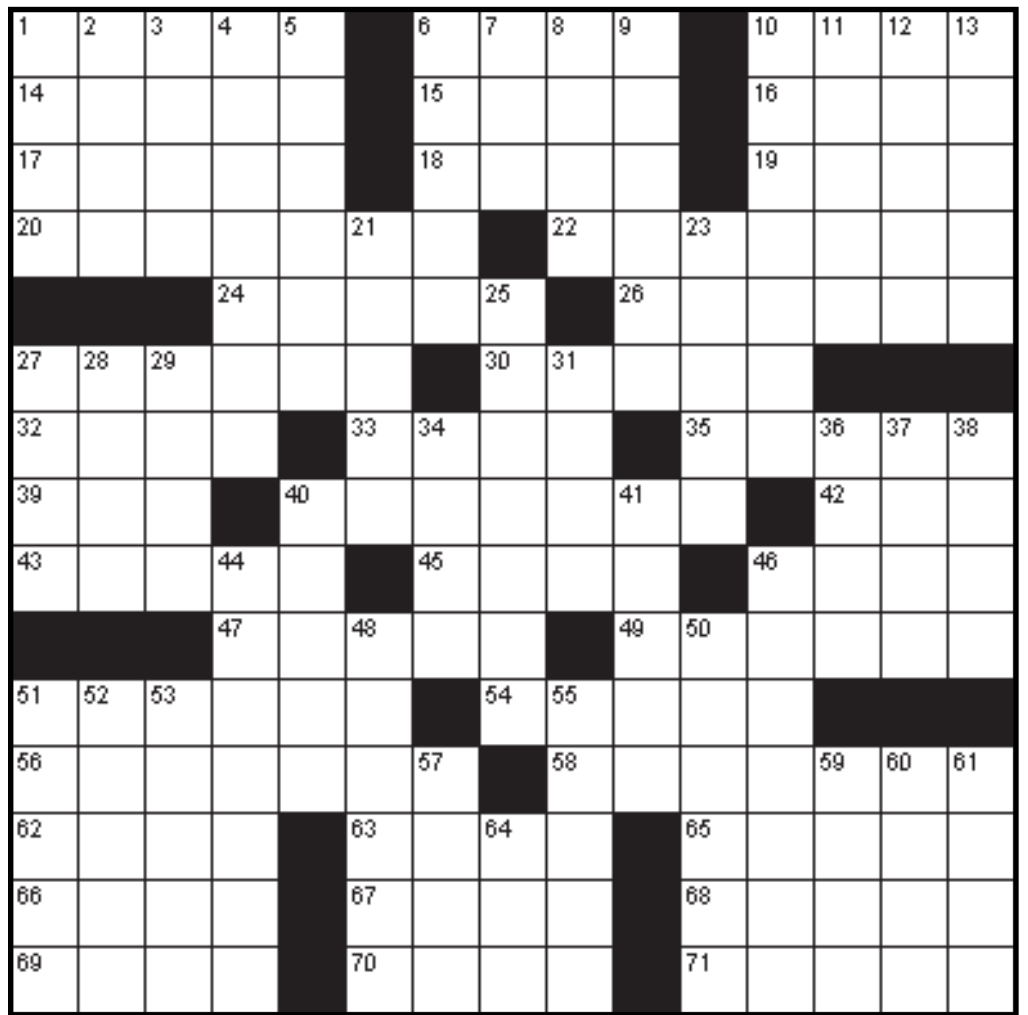
**Across**

- 1 Taj \_\_
- 6 Five-star Bradley
- 10 Counterfeit
- 14 Speedily
- 15 Augur
- 16 Mata \_\_
- 17 Basket for jai alai
- 18 Neighbor of Yemen
- 19 First family member
- 20 Sweep
- 22 Ancient Greek soldier
- 24 "The Cat in the Hat" author
- 26 Actor Matthau
- 27 Attest
- 30 Zaire, formerly
- 32 French singer Edith
- 33 Tell secrets
- 35 To the left
- 39 Business abbr.
- 40 Lizard
- 42 Chinese principle
- 43 Composer Bruckner
- 45 Prevaricates
- 46 Axis leader

**Down**

- 1 Riot queller
- 2 Peak
- 3 Lock part
- 4 Pretend
- 5 Not so hefty
- 6 They're found among the reeds
- 7 Small business co-owner
- 8 Wife of Esau
- 9 Fame
- 10 Small open boat
- 11 Religious costume
- 12 Alpine feature
- 13 Distance runner
- 21 Indonesian island west of Timor
- 23 Heathen
- 25 More alarming
- 27 Western Samoa's capital
- 28 Twain's Huck
- 29 Actuality

**Crossword**



- 31 Theater award
- 34 Respite
- 36 Oklahoma Indian
- 37 Hindu prince
- 38 Implement
- 40 Scythe handle
- 41 A "My Fair Lady" setting
- 44 Lewd
- 46 Refrain syllables
- 48 Boil
- 50 "My Cup Runneth Over" singer
- 51 Nautical reference
- 52 "Roots" author
- 53 Dined at home
- 55 Raises
- 57 Dabbling duck
- 59 Poker declaration
- 60 Like \_\_ out of hell
- 61 Cape Canaveral org.
- 64 Covenant holder

**RIDDLE ME THIS!**

See if you're sharp enough to solve the 5 riddles below. ...Give up yet? Check your answers at the bottom of the page.

I am taken from a mine, and shut up in a wooden case, from which I am never released, and yet I am used by almost everybody.

What goes round the house and in the house but never touches the house?

What is it that you can keep after giving it to someone else?

What walks all day on its head?

What gets wet when drying?

**Word Search - So Soon**

- Soak
- Soapbox
- Soccer
- Society
- Socket
- Socks
- Sodium
- Solace
- Solid
- Solo
- Solver
- Sonata
- Sonnet
- Sorbet



- Sorrel
- Sorrow
- Sortie
- Sound
- Source
- South
- Soviet
- Sower

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Year 2000 AT 1,970cc PETROL  
Mileage 34,000km Color Silver



Ref. 13747 **PRICE: \$3,250**  
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Year 2000 AT 1,590cc Petrol  
Mileage 76,000km Color White



Ref. 13660 **PRICE: \$3,950**  
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Year 1996 MT 1,780cc PETROL  
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Ref. 13562 **PRICE: \$4,060**  
DAIHATSU HIJET TRUCK 0.35 ton  
Year 1998 MT 650cc PETROL Freezer  
Mileage 97,000km Color White



Ref. 13745 **PRICE: \$8,170**  
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Year 2000 MT 3,050cc DIESEL  
Mileage 79,000km Color White



Ref. 13313 **PRICE: \$7,290**  
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Year 1993 MT 4,330cc  
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## ...OSA

Continued from page 11

completion of a process for state health improvement, along with a document that describes the planning process and details the responsibilities of the department and its partners. The other potential gap priority noted in Domain 5 is the completion of an agency strategic plan that incorporates the responsibilities of the department in the overall state health improvement plan. As with the state health assessment, it will be helpful for the department to receive examples of state health improvement plans and organizational strategic plans that have been completed in other jurisdictions.

Domain 6: Enforce public health laws and regulations.

Finding: The OSA indicates basic to strong current performance in this domain.

Domain 7: Promote strategies to improve access to healthcare services.

Finding: The OSA indicates basic to strong current performance in this domain.

Domain 8: Maintain a competent public health workforce.

Finding: Staff need Quality Improvement (QI) training that addresses an introduction to QI and QI tools and developing a culture of quality in the organization. A long-term opportunity for improvement in this domain is the development and implementation of a comprehensive workforce development plan that addresses the training needs

of the staff and the development of core competencies  
Domain 9: Evaluate and continuously improve processes, programs, and interventions.

Finding: The OSA revealed a basic level of performance in this domain. The hospital unit of the department has some quality initiatives in place that may be replicable for the public health unit, including QI in performance evaluations for staff. The group verbalized a desire to develop champions for quality and to translate quality principles to the essential public health service areas. The QI training that was identified as a priority for domain 8 will be an important step in building additional capacity in this domain as well.

Long-term opportunities for improvement in this domain are the development and implementation of a comprehensive performance management system and development of a comprehensive quality improvement program.

Domain 10: Contribute to and apply the evidence base of public health.

Finding: The OSA indicated a basic to strong level of performance in this domain.

Domain 11: Maintain administrative and management capacity.

Finding: The OSA revealed strong overall current performance in this domain.

Domain 12: Build a strong and effective relationship with governing entity.

Finding: The OSA revealed a basic to strong level of performance in this domain.

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# World Food Day 2013 contest winners

## Preserved & Processed Foods Contest

Category	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Taiwang banana	Wanpen Ordonez	Pinis Inoke	Jane Stephen	Ingrid Stephen	Gloria Bonapart
Karat Banana	Wanpen Ordonez	Gail Stephen	Jane Stephen	Ingrid Stephen	Gloria Bonapart
Swamp Taro	Wanpen Ordonez	AJ Tara	Gail Stephen	Jane Stephen	Ingrid Stephen
Breadfruit	Pinis Inoke	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Seafood	Karmeli Edgar	Pinis Inoke	Telsa Abraham	Ingrid Stephen	Jane Stephen
Coconut	Wanpen Ordonez	Gloria Bonapart/Petrina Peniknos	N/A	Maramihna Setik	Konsa Abraham
Other	Wanpen Ordonez	COM-HTM	COM-HTM165	Pinis Inoke	Jace Peniknos
Pandanus	AM Johnson	Telsa Abraham	N/A	N/A	N/A

\*Unfortunately the Local Food Recipe Contest winners were not available at time of print

## Crop Contest

Category	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
<b>FRUIT</b>					
Papaya (reirei)	Bartol Eram	Pedrus Abraham	Yusta Sailas	Sera Sailas	Kesia Paulino
Papaya (pwon)	Samuel Washington	Liwisa Dolon	Bartol Eram	Hilario Ioanis	Robert Nakamura
Sei (soursop)	Pedrus Abraham	Bartol Eram	Robert Nakamura	Ioana Saimon	N/A
Pineapple (tak)	Pedrus Abraham	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Pineapple (medel)	Ioana Saimon	Mikel Bernardo	Joseph Santiago	Pedrus Abraham	Bartol Eram
Lemon	Mikel Bernardo	Ioana Saimon	Kesia Paulino	Hilario Ioanis	Elias Pelep
Karer en lopwolopw	Victorino Darmarlane	Bartol Eram	Alisihter Washington	Welson Hebel	Kalis Joseph
Karer tik	Eoana Saimon	Bartol Eram	Yusta Sailas	Victorino Darmarlane	Mikel Bernardo
<b>ROOT CROP</b>					
Toantoal	Petrihna Peniknos	Kesia Paulino	Liwisa Dolon	Bartol Eram	N/A
Kosrae	Alisihter Washington	Bartol Eram	N/A	N/A	N/A
Pastora	Ioana Saimon	Dakinory pesio	Pedrus Abraham	Liwisa Dolon	N/A
Sawa kapw	Alisihter Washington	Sera Sailas	Liwisa Dolon	Alberto Atem	Pedrus Abraham
Sawa Honolulu	Petrihna Peniknos	Bartol Eram	Pedrus Abraham	N/A	N/A
Penieu	Bartol Eram	Moses Hedgar	Russell Hedgar	N/A	N/A
Tomwara	Reagan Hedgar	Thomas Jack	Russell Hedgar	Reagan Hedgar	N/A
Dolen Wai	Samuel Washington	Moses Hedgar	Kalis Jospheh	N/A	N/A
Tapioka	Moses Sailas	Victorina Darmarlane	Pedrus Abraham	Kesia Paulino	Robert Nakamura
<b>OTHER</b>					
Sehu pwet	Kesia Paulino	Dakinory Pesio	Petrihna Peniknos	Hilario Ioanis	N/A
Sehu tol	Mikel Bernardo	Hilario Ioanis	Alisihter Washington	Ioana Saimon	Samuel Washington
Sehu nta	Alisihter Washington	Hilario Ioanis	Victorino Darmarlane	Alberto Atem	Samuel Washington
Sehu palau	Hilario Ioanis	Alberto Atem	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sehu alahl	Ioana Saimon	Kesia Paulino	Pedrus Abraham	Alberto Atem	Dakinory Pesio
sehu wai	Hilario Ioanis	Pedrus Abraham	Sohs Abraham	N/A	N/A
Sehu kalai	Pedrus Abraham	Alisihter Washington	Samuel Washington	N/A	N/A
Pandanus	Sera Sailas	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mwngas	Moses Sailas	Roberto Nakamura	Sera Sailas	Bartol Eram	Kesia Paulino
Uhpw omwi	Sera Sailas	Bartol Eram	Kesia Paulino	Pedrus Abraham	N/A
Mwoaroapw	Yusta Sailas	Moses Sailas	Samuel Washington	Roberto Nakamura	Bartol Eram
Sakau (nan sapw)	Thomas Jack	Belomina Dadius	Victorino Darmarlane	Bartol Eram	Ioana Saimon
Rahn Ara	Ioana Saimon	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

## Crop Diversity Contest

Category	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
yam	Welson Hebel	Pedrus Abraham	Jayck Hadley	Bartol Eram	Mikel Bernardo
breadfruit	Mikel Bernardo	Pedrus Abraham	Albert Dadius	Estaban Paulino	Welson Hebel
banana	Pedrus Abraham	Mikel Bernardo	Alihster Washington	Victorino Darmarlane	Samuel Washington
giant swamp taro	Josepha Santiago	Bartol Eram	Moses Sailas	Pedrus Abraham	Ander Peniknos
vegetables	Welson Hebel	Sehra Sailas	Samuel Washington / Sohs john	Anarihna Sailas	Josepha Santiago

## Livestock Contest

Category	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Pwihk Lih	Pedrus Abraham	Joseph Marques Jr	Pardol Eham	N/A	N/A
Pwihk Ohl	Pedrus Abraham	Welbert Edmund	Sehra Sailas	Mikel Bernardo	N/A
Malek litok	Sehra Sailas	Shamrock Edmund	Herold Edmund	N/A	N/A
Malek king	Sehra Sailas	Welbert Edmund	Shamrock Edmund	Mikel Bernardo	N/A
Goat (Ohl)	Pedrus Abraham	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Goat (Lih)	Pedrus Abraham	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

## Handicraft Contest

Category	1st	2nd	3rd
Wahr	Don Gilmete	N/A	N/A
wreath	Yumiko Lebehn	Meripa Lipai	Keona Lebehn
Lisoarop (hat)	Elnor Pelep	N/A	N/A
Lohs (mat)	Sera Ben	N/A	N/A
Lirop (mat)	Essy Obed	Kina Lipai	N/A
sape	June George	Heinrich Mateak	N/A
Pelik	June George	Kim Andon	N/A
Dapang (food platter)	June George	Heinrich Mateak	N/A
kopou	Elnor Pelep	Elnor Pelep	Elnor Pelep
dok	Martin Saick	June George	Heinrich Mateak
samwisi	June George	N/A	N/A
spoon	June George	Heinrich Mateak / Martin Saick	N/A
piled	Victorino Damarlane	Mihkel Bernardo	Robert Nakamura
ketieu	Romeo Walter	Epeli Walter	N/A
padil	Don Gilmete	Emery Emil	N/A
rohs dilpek	Evelyn Albert	Essy Obed	N/A
pwel	Eunice Edgar	Epeli Walter	Neileen Walter
Other (Fish Trap)	Martin Saick	N/A	N/A

## Speech Contest

Category	1st
English	Shellany Saimon OLMCHS
Pohnpeian	Amabella Keiko MHS
Senior	Shellany Saimon OLMCHS
Junior Pohnpeian	Mayllani Ioanis-Pelep OLMCHS
Junior English	Margaret Finnen OLMCHS
Category	2nd
Senior	Chimiko Phillip MHS





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