

# Pohnpei Legislature passes Domestic Issues relating to Domestic Violence Act



*FSM Secretary for Health and Social Affairs Magdalena Walter is the first to sign a statement that says, "I will stand up, speak out, and act to prevent violence against women, men, and children."*



*photo by Abigail Asher-Kim*

*By Bill Jaynes*  
*The Kaselehlie Press*

*November 17, 2017*

**Pohnpei**—Nine years after it was first introduced, the Pohnpei State Legislature unanimously passed what became known as the Domestic Issues Act. It provides for mechanisms and procedures to deal with incidents of Domestic Violence.

In October of 2014, a Family Health and Safety report on the prevalence of violence against women funded by Australian Aid and UNFPA was released. It showed that in the FSM, nearly 1/3 of women had suffered physical or sexual violence at the hands of a partner at least once in their life time. 24 percent of women had suffered that type of abuse within the 12 months immediately preceding the study.

The report did not cover the prevalence of domestic violence against males. While anecdotally those numbers are not as high as the numbers of women who are victims, but it definitely does happen in Pohnpei.

Australian Aid, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, and Pohnpei and FSM governments had planned a conference on what was known before the bill passed in its final form as the Pohnpei Family Safety Bill. The conference was set to precede the

annual 16 days of Activism on Violence Against Women and Children. They had intended to spend a good portion of the time working on ways to move the bill forward to passage but were delighted when a week and a half before the conference began, the Pohnpei State Legislature unanimously passed the bill.

At press time, Governor Peterson had not yet signed the Act into law. He is waiting for feedback from his cabinet members but it seems to be nearly a foregone conclusion that he will do so.

Even with the passage of the bill, there is a lot of support work that still needs to be done and even as good as it is that the bill passed in the Legislature it could yet be a stronger bill. Participants in the conference had a lot to talk about and plans to make on ways that they could help with the implementation of the bill.

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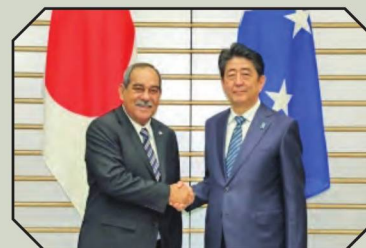
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# Pohnpei Legislature approves Nelson A. Joseph as Chief Justice of Supreme Court

By **Bill Jaynes**  
The Kaselehlie Press

November 6, 2017

**Pohnpei**—After careful scrutiny, the Pohnpei State Legislature’s Standing Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommended confirmation of the Nelson A. Joseph as the new Chief Justice of the Pohnpei Supreme Court. The Legislature agreed and confirmed the nomination.

Governor Marcelo K. Peterson submitted his appointment of Joseph in an October 6 letter to Speaker Fernando Scaliem subject to Legislative consent by a majority. “His professional experiences and trainings can be put to good use at the service of the post of Chief Justice,” the Governor’s letter said.

“...considering the recent calamity within the Pohnpei Supreme Court, your Committee diligently analyzed this particular assignment with utmost scrutiny,” the committee report said.

As the most senior Associate Justice at the Pohnpei Supreme Court when former Chief Justice Benjamin Rodriguez submitted his resignation, Joseph became the Acting Chief Justice.

“This year marks the nominee’s 39th year of employment within the realm of the Court,” the report said.

In 1978 he began as an Assistant Chief Clerk at the Pohnpei State Supreme Court and was later promoted to Chief Clerk. He was later nominated and confirmed as the Chief Justice of Kolonia Town Municipal

Court where he served for two years. In 1995 he was appointed by then Governor Johnny P. David and confirmed by the 3rd Legislature. At the time of his appointment in October, he was serving his second consecutive term as an Associate Justice of the Pohnpei Supreme Court.

Former Pohnpei Chief Justice, Judah Johnny was called before the committee. He told the committee that Joseph had good credentials and that he was a competent former colleague on the bench. “Although former Governor Mr. Johnny David was somewhat skeptical about nominating Mr. Joseph for a second term in his office because of his personal lifestyle,” the committee report said, “Mr. Johnny noted that the nominee has changed over the years. He is a constant church-going individual who never missed Holy Communion services.”

The next witnesses called were colleagues from the Pohnpei Supreme Court and the Court of Land Tenure. Witnesses from the Court of Land Tenure testified strong support for the nominee. Associate Justices of the Pohnpei Supreme Court tended to agree that Joseph is very capable and adept in his work. They were not able to comment on his ability in terms of administration work.

The testimony of Local Municipal Court Judges “weighed heavily in support of the nominee”, the J&GO committee report said.

“From the Court Community, your Committee learned that the one weakness that the nominee ha(s) is managing his time at work,” the report said. The committee suspected that the fact might have been contributing to the backlog of cases at the court but other witnesses testified that “all in all, every person involved in cases filed in

Court contributes to the backlog of cases.”

In addition to the other witnesses the committee called before them, they also sought input from attorneys and trial counselors who had stood before Associate Justice Joseph. The committee said that 90 percent of the responding attorneys responded positively to their experiences with him as an Associate Justice. “However, the minor downside of the comments received, rests on the nominee’s time and attendance spent at work,” the report said. “Likewise, a portion of the comments question the nominee’s college question the nominee’s college background.” The committee concluded that the majority of the comments received from the attorneys supported the nominee as the next Chief Justice of the Pohnpei Supreme Court.

The Committee also met with Joseph. “He commented that during this short period of time that he has been serving as the Acting Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, he has already devised a mechanism to forward and safeguard the administration of the Pohnpei Supreme Court. He testified that the monies collected by the Court are now deposited daily, with one receipt filed with the Chief Clerk and another receipt filed with his own assigned secretary” the report said. He testified that the “the added responsibilities are demanding more of his time and attendance at work. Thus, the management of his time at work has changed.”

He also told the committee that in order to assist with the backlog of cases at the Court he would be reducing the number of trainings each year that he and his staff would take part in if he received the confirmation of the Legislature.

“His vision for Pohnpei Supreme Court


rests with the development of the Court,” the report said. “It will...take a while for Pohnpei Supreme Court to be restored completely.” Joseph told the committee that he would “try to the best of is ability to restore the broken pieces.”

“In light of the concern raised regarding the nominee’s time and attendance spent at work...your Committee members decided to accord the nominee the benefit of the doubt because of the nominee has dedicated his entire working career with the Court,” the report recommending the approval of his appointment said. “We are of the mind that his weaknesses mentioned herein will be inevitably be ironed out.”

Though no pages were omitted from the written committee report on the testimony of Feliciano Perman, Director of the Department of Treasury and Administration (DoTA), there is a gap between pages 6 and 7 of the report. The Director’s testimony seemed to center on a mandate of the law that requires that Justices of the Supreme Court submit a report to the Director of DoTA regarding the status of cases. He testified that the DoTA had never received such reports.

“...your Committee has decided to maintain its standpoint and recommend Mr. Nelson A. Joseph to the post of Chief Justice with the understanding that upon his confirmation, the new Chief Justice will take the points raised in this report under close consideration,” the report said.

The Legislature agreed and confirmed Nelson A. Joseph to be the new Chief Justice of the Pohnpei Supreme Court where he will serve for the next 12 years unless removed from office.



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Bill Jaynes  
 Managing Editor

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# Chuukese man first to be tried for laser pointer attack on a plane in the FSM

By *Bill Jaynes*  
*The Kaselehlie Press*

November 6, 2017

**Chuuk, FSM**—The FSM Department of Justice filed charges against Isak Rawit for the crime of pointing a laser pointer at an aircraft operating within the FSM’s jurisdiction. The FSM is asking for the maximum penalty of five years in prison and \$10,000 fine for each offense if he is convicted.

This is the first prosecution for pointing a laser pointer at a plane since the FSM passed a law banning it.

United Airlines pilots, Captain Kidder and Captain Falsani, reported that at approximately 9:40 PM on October 29 and again at 2:30 AM on October 30, they were attacked by a green laser light during flights. The pilots reported the coordinates of the origin of the laser beam as being in waters off Ruo in Chuuk State.

Four fishermen told National Police that they were fishing in those waters at those times and saw a green laser beam shooting from a boat near them but they couldn’t see who was on the boat due to the darkness and the distance.

Through an investigation and questioning, National Police learned that Isak Rawit was fishing in those waters on that night and that he owns a laser pointer with red and green lights. The laser pointer is similar to military grade laser pointers used to aid in sighting targets. It is not the small type of laser pointer that can be bought at variety stores. The criminal information says that the pointer that was used is six inches long and in addition to the laser beams, also has a flashlight mode. It is not a crime to own that type of laser pointer, but it is a crime to point it at an aircraft.

According to the criminal information

from the investigating officer that was filed with the charges, Rawit was brought in for questioning. While there, Rawit signed a waiver form agreeing to answer the investigators’ questions.

Rawit told the police that he and five other men were spear fishing in waters off Ruo. He admitted that each time he saw the United Airlines plane pass overhead, he took his laser pointer out of his bucket and shined it at the plane.

Police also interviewed the other men

who were fishing with him. All said that they witnessed Rawit pointing the laser at the aircraft twice.

Rawit voluntarily surrendered the laser pointer device. Charges were filed on November 6. He had his initial appearance before the court on that same day and the court released him on his own recognizance under a list of restrictions on movement and reporting requirements.

Rawit is innocent unless proven otherwise in a court of law.

# Chinese-made aircraft delivered to FSM

*Mengjie | Xinhua // November 10, 2017*

**HARBIN, PRC** — A Chinese-made Y-12E aircraft was delivered to the Federated States of Micronesia, an island nation on the Western Pacific, on Friday.

The aircraft was manufactured by AVIC Harbin Aircraft Industry Group Co., Ltd.

"It will be used for cargo transport, rescue and medical services in Micronesia," said Liu Huinan, deputy chief engineer at the company.

The purchase order was obtained in 2013, he said.

Consisting of more than 600 islands, Micronesia has a stronger demand for air transportation.

The short-haul Y-12 series aircraft are used mainly for passenger and cargo transport, geological exploration, ocean monitoring and agriculture. The aircraft has obtained certification in more than ten countries including Russia, the United States and France.

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**Deadline for submission of articles or advertisements for this issue is  
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Wednesday November 29, 2017**

# Cyber criminals are targeting people with connections to the FSM wherever they are

By Bill Jaynes  
The Kaselehlie Press

November 14, 2017

**FSM**—There is only one reason for a person to create an online identity to impersonate someone else that you know. They want you to trust them at least long enough for you to give them your money or your identity so that they can take it themselves.

“Don’t do it,” warns Captain George Skilling of the FSM Transnational Crime Unit (TCU). Skilling encourages people of the FSM who suspect that they are being scammed on line to contact them the TCU. They can be contacted at 320-5713 or 320-5803.

Cybercrime can have many faces, from cyber bullying to identity theft and fraud. Skilling says that he is surprised at the number of people who aren’t aware that non-consensual “sexting” is a cybercrime. Also sharing photos of your naked body with someone who didn’t ask for them is just as illegal as standing on a street corner in a trench coat and flashing passersby is. Sharing those types of photos with underage people is NEVER legal.

Captain Skilling says that TCU is once again preparing for an Internet crimes awareness campaign in schools and elsewhere. He said

that the unit conducted a campaign in all four of the States in 2011 but that more awareness is needed. TCU is also developing a website to help educate people about the dangers of cybercrime and what the signs are.

For quite a while, scammers have been creating Facebook and other types of social media content claiming the identity of the FSM Government leaders. Using easily accessible news photos and other content, they claim that they are FSM President Peter M. Christian, Vice President Yosiwo George, or Secretary for Foreign Affairs Lorin S. Robert, for instance.

Some FSM Government leaders do have Facebook and other social media identities, but the vast majority of them do not, says Captain Skilling.

The President, Vice President, and Secretary for Foreign Affairs are not available on social media but someone is using their identities to deliver a scam regarding grants the scammers say are available because of a United Nations sponsored program. Taken to its end, if the conversation gets that far, the scammer will tell their victim that before they can release a large check to them, they have to pay a registration fee and prove their identities.

On Facebook, the messages come through

Instant Messenger.

Some people are instantly suspicious because the scammer usually has bad grammar skills, or because they seem to know nothing about the FSM when asked. Several people reported that when they asked the person purporting to be President Christian to communicate in Pohnpeian, the person responded that they didn’t have the right keyboard and didn’t respond when the victim tried to communicate in Pohnpeian.

Knowing that President Christian does not have a social media presence, I confronted the person impersonating him and threatened to report their activities to the Transnational Crime Unit. That person took the page down within seconds.

Another type of scam is an email scam where it seems that a person on your contact list is in trouble and needs financial help. If you’ll look carefully though, you will see that the sender’s email address will be subtly different from your contact’s address. Often they will say something to the effect of, “I’m in Katmandu and a Yeti ate my wallet (or something equally absurd). I’m stuck here...I have no place to stay, no food, and no way to return home. Can you help me? I’ll pay you back when I get home.”

But your friend has no idea that his or

her identity has been used to con you into sending money to someone else. If you think your friend actually IS in trouble and needs your help, try to contact them in a different way and verify the situation independently from the claims they make on the fake email address.

Most people know about what has become known as the Nigerian scam. They continue every day and they wouldn’t continue if people didn’t fall for them. Some people in the FSM have fallen so hard for the scams that they have actually flown to another country to receive the huge sum of money they were promised and also losing the thousands of dollars they deposited into the scammer’s account.

“If it’s too good to be true,” Skilling says, “it probably isn’t true.”

You can’t win a lottery that you didn’t enter whether it is someone purporting to be from Yahoo, or Google, or Facebook or whoever else might tell you that you did. Don’t send them money to get more money. It just doesn’t work that way and is a scam.

Scammers have obviously decided that the people of FSM wherever they are in the world, are easy targets for cybercrime. The Internet can be a fantastic place but like the rest of the world, it can also be very dangerous.

“If you think it’s fishy, it probably is,” Captain Skilling said. “Report it to us.”

## ...Family Safety

Continued from *frontpage*

On the first day they heard and participated in discussions on Family Values, the FSM Family Health and Safety Study, the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), and a discussion on the Human Rights context of family violence. On the second day six advocates and legal practitioners had a panel discussion on the current practices on dealing with domestic violence cases. The Chairman of the Judicial and Government Operations committee helped participants to understand the bill. The Attorney General also spoke on the bill. They discussed the importance of designing an implementation plan for the Domestic Issues Act on Domestic Violence and closed with a discussion of what still needs to be done in order to fully implement the act should it become law.

“The Government of Pohnpei State recognizes that families are the foundation of the structures of our communities, and that they form the core of our existence as people,” the final committee report on the bill said. “Acceptance of family values and recognition of the obligations of family



members to honor and respect each other lay at the heart of the Constitution and in the very soul of our traditions.”

The report said that it heard testimonies from Pohnpei students attending the University of Guam in Social Work. They met with Micronesian Productions who was tasked at the time with an awareness campaign on similar issues and also on Human Trafficking. They also heard from witnesses from the Pohnpei Women Council. The committee commended the honest sharing of personal experiences from the witnesses and their passionate support for the bill.

“Your Committee is cognizant of the fact that this is timely as we continue to encounter a growing number of family violence incidents,” the report says.

Before sending the bill back to the floor with its recommendation to pass it, the committee submitted proposed changes. It said that it felt that the definition of the section on child discipline could lead to an inaccurate and incorrect application of the law. It said that it changed that definition to be more in line with the Constitution and Pohnpeian traditions.

The Committee also added a “three-strike” requiring mandatory imprisonment and possible fines after a third conviction for domestic violence within seven years. “It is the sense of your Committee that incorporating a three-strike rule into the legislation will serve as a deterrent in family violence situations... further promoting the intent...to maintain peace and promote harmony and unity within the family,” the report says.

The committee said that it had a problem with the implementation of protective orders within the Justice Department and so asked the Governor to establish a task force no later than 30 days after the Act takes effect. The task force would study the concept of utilizing protective orders with family violence issues and submit a recommendation to the Governor and

the Legislature within six months. The Committee recommended that the sections on protective order be “reserved” and not put into effect of law until after the study has been conducted and necessary changes are made. However, what the committee passed on to the full Legislature as legislative draft 1, only kept in “reserve” the section on protective orders from other States. All of the rest of the significant wording on protective orders remained in the bill and were never removed or changed in subsequent legislative drafts before the Legislature passed the Act. If the Governor signs the bill, those provisions will have the full force of the law without task force review.

The act deals with powers of police officers responding to domestic violence incidents. It covers diversion methods, probation, and revocation of diversion methods.

The markup copy of the final version of the bill including all amendments spans 30 pages.

Supporters of the bill are ecstatic that there may finally be a law to help protect victims of domestic violence that could potentially serve as a deterrent to those people who have had a tendency to abuse their family members.



Pauleen Fredrick Diadi, Kitti, Pohnpei

## Alumni Success

I attended COMFSM for 2 years (Fall 2009 – Spring 2011) majoring in Marine Science with a minor in Education. I transferred to the University of Hawaii at Hilo in Fall of 2012 pursuing a degree in Marine Science and graduated from UH Hilo in Fall 2016 with a Bachelors of Science degree, a minor in Evolution, Ecology, and Conservation Biology and a certificate in the Marine Options Program. I am now working at Hawaii Volcano National Park with the Environmental Education Department, doing outreach to communities and introducing youths to the youth programs at the Park.

COM-FSM made an impact on my transition from a 2 year institution to a 4 year institution in so many ways. It introduced me to the life of responsibilities, adulthood, and prepared me for academic opportunities such as internships. At first it

was a bit challenging because of the university's standards, the lack of financial support at that time and of course, culture shock. But that didn't stop me from pursuing my degree. I transferred to UH Hilo as a Junior because all the courses I took at COMFSM were also transferred to UH Hilo covering most of my general education requirements. COM-FSM gave me an introduction to most of the courses I took at UH Hilo. The knowledge I acquired from COM-FSM helped me through my school years here in Hilo.

Share your story by emailing us at [alumnisuccess@comfsm.fm](mailto:alumnisuccess@comfsm.fm)  
We want hear about your achievements!



## Fall 2017 66th Commencement Exercises

Friday, December 15, 2017 at 9:00AM

Main Gym, FSM-China Friendship Sports Center

COM-FSM Alumni are invited to join the processional. Reserved seats will be made available for alumni. Please confirm your seat by emailing [rsvp@comfsm.fm](mailto:rsvp@comfsm.fm) or by calling 320-8766. Only 60 available seats. Commencement Rehearsals would be on December 15, 2017 at 9:00AM.



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## Congress approves secretary of new department, funds new consulate office

*Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia*

*November 15, 2017*

**PALIKIR, POHNPEI** – The recently adjourned session of the 20th Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia approved for the Nation a new Secretary for its recently created department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management and approved for the Nation funding for a new consulate office, among other measures.

As called by President Peter M. Christian, the 5-day Second Special Session of the 20th Body convened from October 30th thru November 3rd to address matters that were not attended to during the regular session in September and top among those matters were the establishment of a consulate office in the United States and additional funding towards the fiber-optic cable project.

Congress passed Congressional Act (CA) 20-54 as a supplement to the 2018 national budget to appropriate \$333,000 towards the set up and operation costs for an FSM Consulate Office in the state of Oregon on the US West Coast. Included in the same Act is an appropriation towards the Yap-Chuuk Telecommunications Cable Project of an additional \$4 million with \$1 million

specified for civil works. Rounding out the supplemental funding was an amount of \$5 million appropriated towards the FSM Trust Fund.

Another measure of appropriation was CA 20-59 which appropriated \$2.8 million from the general fund for the Body's continued assistance towards grass root projects and social programs in all the four states. The remaining measures of the session were for either changes to funds previously appropriated or changes to the use or allottees of said funds, and they included:

CA- 20-55, which changed the use and allottees of funds previously appropriated for priority infrastructure projects in the states of Chuuk, Kosrae and Pohnpei;

CA 20-56 was specific to the State of Kosrae to change the use of funds previously appropriated for public projects and social programs within the state;

Specific to the State of Chuuk were CA 20-57 and CA 20-58 both of which made changes to the use of funds previously appropriated for public projects and social programs in the state; and

The final measure was CA 20-60 which was specific to the state of Pohnpei to change

the use of funds previously appropriated for public projects and social programs in the state.

Along with the seven Congressional Acts, Congress also passed seven Congressional Resolutions during its recent session. While the majority of the resolutions were for funding assistance towards the ongoing health and social programs in the Nation, three addressed nominations pending before the Congress and they included:

Congressional Resolution (CR) 20-56 which confirmed Andrew Robert Yatilman to serve as the Secretary for the newly created Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management. Another confirmed nominee was Alissa R. Takesy who through CR 20-52 became the National Government representative on the National Scholarship Board and finally through CR 20-46, Alfred Ansin was confirmed as the state of Chuuk representative on the Caroline Island Air Board of Directors.

The remaining resolutions were for the approval of various grant assistances extended to the Nation in its continuing endeavors for growth and development, and those measures included CR 20-55, which approved a grant of \$647,309 from the United States Dept. of Health and

Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, to fund the FSM Prevention Framework Partnerships for Success (SPF-PFS) Project.

Another resolution towards the continuing efforts of the FSM Dept. of Health and Social Affairs was CR 20-59 which approved a grant of CAD \$98,5000 from Her Majesty the Queen in the Right of Canada, through the Dept. of Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Development (DFATD), to fund and support the FSM's project entitled "Strengthening the FSM's Institutions that Promote Gender Equality and CEDAW Awareness Raising to the Relevant Stakeholder and Partner Agencies in the FSM..."

A resolution geared toward the Nation's ongoing efforts for sound infrastructure was adopted by the Congress as CR 20-61 and approved a grant of \$200,000 from the Korea International Cooperation Agency to assist the improvement of the Kosrae International Airport facilities

The final resolution adopted was CR 20-64 to approve a grant of \$100,064 from the US DHHS, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, to fund the PPHF 2017 Preventative Health and Health Services Block Grant.

Following the passage and adoption of the measures, the Second Special Session of the 20th Congress adjourned on November 3, 2017.

## GCF signs agreement with Micronesia Conservation Trust to bolster Pacific resilience

*MCT Press Release*

**Bonn, 12 November 2017** – The strengthening of a partnership with the Green Climate Fund will help the residents of low lying islands take greater control of their destinies, the Executive Director of the Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT), William Kostka, said today.

The signing ceremony followed the dedication of the Tony Debrum Meeting Room at the Bula Zone of the UNFCCC World Conference Center Bonn. Those in attendance to witness the signing included FSM Vice President Yosiwo George, Foreign Affairs Secretary Lorin Robert, R&D Secretary Marion Henry, Environment Secretary Andrew Yatilman, Palau Minister of Environment Umiich Sengebau, RMI Minister in Assistance David Paul, Minister of Foreign Affairs John Silk and numerous dignitaries from the Pacific and from around the rest of the world.

"Enhanced access to climate finance will help us take action to reduce the destruction of extreme weather events, and to improve our long-term planning to deal with a warming planet," said Mr Kostka during the signing of an Accreditation Master Agreement (AMA). "MCT looks forward to working with our governments and our local communities across Micronesia to jointly develop and submit proposals to the Green Climate Fund" stated Doreen Debrum, MCT's Board Chairwoman and oldest daughter of the late Tony Debrum. MCT became the smallest organization in the world (with only 10 staff) to gain accreditation to the Green Climate Fund. In 2015, MCT achieved this same feat with the Adaptation Fund.

MCT is one of GCF's direct access Accredited Entities forging low-emission and climate resilient paths in Small Island Developing States. AMAs open the way for GCF to consider climate change projects which Accredited Entities, such as MCT, bring forward for funding approval.

Pa Ousman Jarju, director of GCF's Country Programming Division said "GCF is particularly keen to support societies that are highly vulnerable, such as the Pacific islands where MCT is focusing its conservation work."



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# 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM Against Gender-based Violence 25 November to 10 December

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- 1 Dec** **World Aids Day:**  
Friday **CANDLELIGHT VIGIL**  
6pm @ Spanish Wall Softball Field Nancy: 320 2217
- 3 Dec** **International Day of Persons with Disabilities:**  
Sunday **CHURCH OUTREACH** Kester: 320 5142
- 9 Dec** **Human Rights Day & Migrant's Day:**  
Saturday **HUMAN RIGHTS AND MIGRATION FESTIVAL**  
4pm @ Spanish Wall Softball Field Jessi: 320 8735

*Follow us for more info about these, and other events*

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Australian Embassy  
Pohnpei

Special thanks to FSM NOC

# WHITE RIBBON WALKABOUT

**Saturday**  
**25 November**  
**5.00 pm**

5km - Start and Finish at Mangrove Bay

**FREE** Registration T-SHIRTS COCONUTS

END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN THE FSM

# President of the FSM visits Japan

## Press Release of the Embassy of Japan to the FSM

H.E. Mr. Peter Martin Christian, President of the Federated States of Micronesia, paid an Official Visit to Japan from Monday, October 23, to Thursday, October 26, 2017. He also visited Kansai area from 20-22 October 2017 privately.

During his stay in Japan, the President made a State Call on His Majesty the Emperor of Japan on October 23 and had a bilateral meeting with Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan and attended a dinner hosted by Mr. Abe on October 25. The President called on the former Japanese Prime Minister Mr. Yoshiro Mori on October 24 and also called on Mr. Keiji Furuya, President of the Japan Micronesia Friendship Parliamentarian's League on October 25. He also met with Japanese Prominent businessmen.

Mr. Taro Kono, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, held a meeting with the Hon. Lorin S. Robert, Secretary of Department of Foreign Affairs on October 24 and he hosted a dinner for the President and his delegation on October 23.

This visit was President Christian's fourth visit to Japan as President.

On October 25, Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, held a summit meeting with H.E. Mr. Peter Martin Christian, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) on his official visit to Japan. The overview is as follows.

### Opening statement

Prime Minister Abe stated that Japan is placing emphasis on its relationship with FSM, an important partner bound to Japan by historical ties and the Pacific Ocean which has strongly and consistently supported Japan in the international arena. Prime Minister Abe also stated that next year will be a milestone of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and FSM and the Eighth Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM8) will be held in the same year. Prime Minister Abe expressed that he would like to work together with President Christian to greatly develop Japan-FSM relations and would like to cooperate under the "Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy." In response, President Christian expressed his gratitude for the warm welcome, congratulated Prime Minister Abe on his election victory, offered condolences regarding the typhoon damage, and also expressed his gratitude for the support of Japan. Furthermore, he stated that with next year's PALM8 and 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic

relations in mind, he wishes to not only further strengthen bilateral relations but also to closely cooperate in responding to the regional situation and within the international arena.

### Bilateral relations

Prime Minister Abe stated that he was pleased by the signing of the exchange of notes concerning the grant aid, amounting to 350 million Japanese Yen (approximately 3.2 million US dollars), with the purpose of donating heavy machinery for infrastructure development, and expressed Japan's commitment to continue supporting the development of FSM.

The two leaders confirmed that they would promote bilateral cooperation in the areas of economic relations, people-to-people exchange, fishing, and the recovery of the remains of the war dead.

### Eighth Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM8)

The two leaders agreed that they will cooperate to the maximum extent toward the success of the PALM8 which will be held in May 2018.

### Regional situation

Regarding the situation of North Korea, Prime Minister Abe stated the importance of full implementation of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions and applying maximum pressure on North Korea in order to change its policy and sought understanding and support regarding the abductions issue. In response, President Christian stated that he wishes to cooperate with Japan so that the problem of North Korea will be solved.

Regarding maritime security, the two leaders agreed on the importance of a free and open maritime order based on the rule of law, and President Christian stated that he highly appreciated the strategic role played by Japan in this region.

### Cooperation in the international arena

Prime Minister Abe expressed his gratitude for the consistent support of FSM for the positions of Japan regarding United Nations Security Council reform and various international elections. The two leaders confirmed that they will continue to closely cooperate in the international arena. Furthermore, President Christian expressed his support for the resolution on the elimination of nuclear weapons in the United Nations General Assembly that Japan is promoting.

### Foreign Ministers' Meeting

On October 24, commencing at 11 a.m. for approximately 30 minutes, Mr. Taro Kono, Minister for Foreign Affairs, held a meeting with the Hon. Lorin S. Robert,

Secretary of Department of Foreign Affairs of the Federated States of Micronesia, who is accompanying H.E. Peter Martin Christian, President of the Federated States of Micronesia on his Official Working Visit to Japan. The overview of the meeting is as follows.

Micronesia is an important partner which is particularly close to Japan, Minister Kono explained that he hopes to cooperate closely towards the Eighth Pacific Islands Meeting (PALM8) and the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Micronesia next year. In response, Secretary Robert explained that Japan is a second home to him, and he expressed gratitude for Japan's courteous hospitality and stated that he hopes to further deepen the cooperative relationship between the two countries in the future.

The two ministers shared the view that they will cooperate toward PALM8, which will be held in May next year.

Furthermore, the two ministers exchanged views on the situation of North Korea, and Secretary Robert expressed a strong support for Japan's position concerning North Korea, including on the abductions issue.

Minister Kono expressed his appreciation for Micronesia's consistent support for Japan in the international arena, and the two ministers shared the view that the two countries will continue to coordinate closely.

### Signing Ceremony of Japan Grant Aid for "the Economic and Social Development Programme"

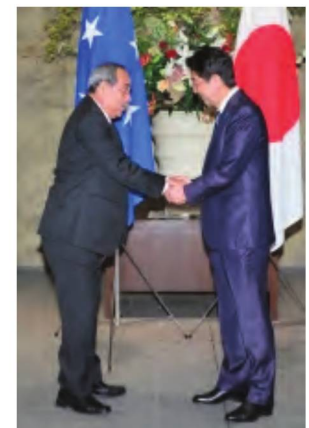
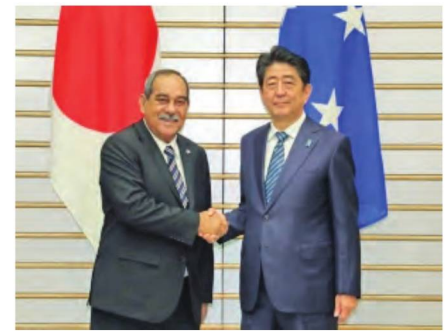
On October 25, 2017, Mr. Ryoichi Horie, Ambassador of Japan to the Federated States of Micronesia and Hon. Mr. Lorin S. Robert, Secretary of Department of Foreign Affairs of the FSM, signed an Exchange of Notes for Grant Aid for Economic and Social Development Programme in Tokyo.

Through this grant aid, amounting to 350 million Japanese Yen (approximately 3.2 million US dollars) heavy equipment for maintaining infrastructure will be procured. The specific contents of this project are however yet to be decided.

Infrastructure such as roads in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) is getting older and needs to be repaired. Therefore, this grant aid will promote socio-economic development of the FSM through improving the infrastructure.



The President made a State Call on His Majesty the Emperor of Japan



(Photos: Cabinet Public Relations Office)



# Robotics kits arrive in Yap - Island of Stone Money



Students at Outer Island High School on Ulithi opening boxes of robotics parts

## Habele Outer Island Education Fund

**Colonia, Yap** - Students on Micronesia's famously traditional Island of Stone Money have begun to design and assemble hi-tech programmable robots.

Robotics clubs at five high schools in Yap received VEX Classroom and

Competition kits earlier this month, kicking off expansion of the popular Yap Robo League.

Using the raw parts, students will be able to design, build, and code robots to compete in a statewide STEM exhibition and robotics competition in May. Yap's Robo League was established in 2011 by the US-based nonprofit "Habele." It is now expanding across that state through a pilot grant award by the Office of Insular Affairs.

"We were inspired by the students from Yap who represented the Federated States of Micronesia this summer at the 2017 FIRST Global Challenge international robotics competition for high school students here in Washington, D.C.," said OIA Director Nik Pula. "Through robotics, the Habele Outer Island Education Fund has been promoting the broadening of students' experience in applying basic Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math skills in a positive, competitive, and hands-on way, and we are pleased to support expansion of this opportunity for more students in Yap," continued Pula.

Pupils and teachers at Yap Catholic

High School have taken the lead as peer mentors, supporting expansion of the Robotics Team at the Yap SDA School and the creation of new robotics clubs at Yap High School, Outer Island High School, and Faith Academy. Their efforts follow community meetings held by Habele in early Fall to gauge interest and develop plans for the league expansion.

"As the newest school on Yap we are thrilled part of this," said John Malimai, Principal of Faith Christian Academy in Makiy. "The materials and technical training will expand the scope of our science instruction, and working with the other schools through the league helps us integrate and collaborate with other educators on island."

While students at the five schools have begun tinkering, teachers and administrators are coordinating for a series of technical trainings in late 2017 and early 2018 to guide their student's work. The teams' skills, developed over the coming months, will be showcased in a public five school robotics competition on May 22, 2018.



Yap Catholic High School students opening a box of robotics parts



Paul Zimmer Director of Faith Christian Academy at the Yap State Post Office

### VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT



Embassy of the United States of America KOLONIA

ANNOUNCEMENT NUMBER: 2017-004

OPEN TO: All Interested Candidates/All Sources  
 POSITION: Chauffeur / Maintenance, LES-4  
 CLOSING DATE: November 24, 2017  
 WORK HOURS: Full-time; 40 hours/week  
 SALARY: Ordinarily Resident (OR): FSN-4; \$9,143 p.a.

APPLICANTS MUST HAVE REQUIRED WORK AND/OR RESIDENCY PERMITS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR CONSIDERATION.

The U.S. Embassy is seeking eligible and qualified applicants.

#### BASIC FUNCTION OF POSITION

- Serves as the primary chauffeur for the Ambassador and for visiting VIPs. Operates embassy vehicles, delivers messages, collects local mail, picks up and delivers local purchases, moves furniture and appliances from the warehouse.
- Vehicle preventive maintenance, inspection and troubleshooting.
- Basic maintenance on facilities, and oversees contract laborers.
- Ensures incoming/outgoing Embassy shipments are properly handled.

#### QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED

- EDUCATION: Completion of high school education.
- EXPERIENCE: Two years of local driving, one year experience in maintenance as an inspector, supervisor or planner.
- LANGUAGE: Level III (Good Working Knowledge) Speaking/Reading/Writing of English is required.
- Required valid local driver's license with good driving record.

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Windows 10 Home

**Cyber  
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62 Watt  
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**HP Pavilion 15.6"**  
Intel Core i5 Processor  
8GB Ram 1TB HDD  
Windows 10 Home

# Fishing companies reiterate the importance and urgency of competent authority in the FSM

With the introduction of the Vessel Day Scheme and the annual increases in fishing access fees, fishing companies accessing FSM's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) have expressed greater interest in establishing tuna processing plants in the FSM in order to qualify for special considerations on access fees and reduce operational costs. The NORMA Board met with several companies with proposals to establish cold storage facilities in Kosrae as well as loin processing plants in both Kosrae and Pohnpei. It is anticipated that these projects would generate 150-800 employees.

In all the presentations given, the common message from the fishing companies was the critical need and urgency to have a Competent Authority for IUU and Health Safety established in the FSM. Most of the distant water nation fleets fishing in the

region export their catch to the EU market, which is currently the most lucrative market for fish products. Companies who have voiced their interest in investing in the FSM are among those fleet. They all stressed during the meeting that their investments would be contingent upon the establishment of the CA. The CA for IUU and Health and Food Safety are market access requirements set by the EU for Countries that wish to export fish into its market. The CA ensures that fish exported into the EU are sustainably caught and are safe for consumption. The only Countries in the Pacific region that have managed to establish a CA are PNG, Fiji, and recently, the small island nation of Kiribati. With the growing interest to invest in the fisheries sector in the FSM, it is imperative that a CA be established soon. NORMA, with support from World Bank under the PROP Project and assistance from New Zealand under a Technical Assistance Project, aims to achieve that within two years.



# Grant Contract signing Ceremony for the Project for Reconstruction of School Library at Xavier High School in Chuuk State

On November 8, 2017, the Grant Contract Signing Ceremony was held at Xavier High School for the Project for Reconstruction of School Library at Xavier High School in Chuuk State which provided Xavier High School with \$80,491 under Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects.

The goal for this project is to reconstruct the school library which was heavily damaged by Typhoon Maysak. It is expected that the new library will boost morale among students and teachers. It will also enable both students and teachers to have a safe space where they can do research, study, use computers, and work on group projects.

Mr. Martin K. Carl, the Principal of Xavier High school expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the continuous support of Japan to the high school, and stated that the library built by this project will be a new symbol of the friendship between the Federated States of Micronesia (the FSM) and Japan. Ambassador Horie Ryoichi appreciated the warm welcome performance by the students and the teachers, and stated that this project will improve the life of students and teachers in the high school as well as strengthen the bond between Japan and the FSM.



The ceremony was witnessed by the students and the teachers of Xavier high school, Madam Horie and a staff of the Embassy of Japan in the FSM.





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# JAPAN-FFA fund receives long-term boost for Pacific Fisheries to 2028



3 Nov 2017,  
**FFA Conference Centre, Honiara, SOLOMON ISLANDS**—A decade of funding support from the Overseas Fisheries Cooperation Fund (OFCF) of Japan for Pacific Fisheries has been renewed for a further ten years. Pacific member delegations attending the 104th Special session of the Forum Fisheries Committee witnessed the formal signing today at the Forum Fisheries Agency’s Conference Centre, committing 330,000 USD annually for Pacific Fisheries from the OFCF, through its Japan Promotion

Fund. FFA Director General James Movick thanked OFCF President Yoshiharu Takenaka for personally making the long journey from Japan for the formalities, and for the valuable assistance provided by the Japanese Promotion Fund over the last ten years. The fund has supported capacity building for fisheries administrations in Pacific nations, including observer program training, new fishing technologies, public affairs and outreach support for maritime delimitation, investment support, and



boosted Pacific engagement on global fisheries.

“I am delighted to note the commitment from both FFA members and our Ministers, and from Japan and the OFCF, to continue this new phase of support from the Japan Promotion Fund, and the efforts which have resulted in this assistance to our members,” says DG Movick.

“More than budgetary support, I believe this funding pledge reflects a broader commitment from the OFCF, to working in partnership with Pacific nations for the sustainable management of our tuna fisheries.”

Given the presence of Fisheries officials at the signing – attending the 14th FFA Management


Options Committee to clarify and develop positions going into the WCPC14, DG Movick noted the special consultation between members and Japan which had preceded the MOC, and his hope for “even stronger cooperation between the FFA membership and Japan in the coming Tuna Commission meeting in Manila”.

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## A Message from President Trump on FSM’s Independence Day

Dear Mr. President:

The people of the United States join me in extending to you and to the people of the Federated States of Micronesia our warmest congratulations as you celebrate your Independence Day on November 3.

The United States values the long history of close partnership between our two nations. The citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia who serve in the U.S. Armed Forces are a testament to our strong partnership,

shared commitment to global prosperity, and shared democratic values. Our cooperation on economic growth and development, as well as on regional and global security priorities, contribute to the strong bonds that link us. We look forward to deepening our already strong partnership.

Congratulations and warmest wishes for peace and prosperity in the coming year.

*Sincerely,*  
**Donald J. Trump**

# NOTICE OF INACTIVE ACCOUNTS

Please take notice that as of June 30, 2017, the following SAVINGS and CHECKING ACCOUNTS on deposit with Bank of Guam\* are inactive and the accountholders listed below must immediately contact their respective Bank of Guam\* Branch, otherwise, the funds contained in these accounts will be transferred to the Secretary of Finance during the month of January 2018, pursuant to 29 FSMC §106 (16) and 29 FSMC §502 and under the procedures set forth in 17 FSMC §102. Please take note that after January 2018, all inquiries pertaining to the accounts below must be directed to the Secretary of Finance.

## CHUUK BRANCH SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

LDMONGO, RESTITUTO  
MOEN TRUK, FSM 96942  
PAUL, TOLOVE  
MOEN TRUK, FSM 96942  
SELFIS, SWINGLY or SELFIS, ARNO (2 accounts)  
MOEN TRUK, FSM 96942  
YONGORAN, MARIUS or KAIUS, SATORINA  
PO BOX 1322 - CHUUK, FM 96942-1322  
SANA, TERLEEN  
PO BOX 329 - WENO CHUUK, FM 96942  
WICHAP CATHOLIC  
PO BOX 250 - CHUUK, FM 96942  
UMAN MOCHON MC ASSOCIATION  
MOEN ISLAND - TRUK, FSM 96942  
JOHNNY, RESLY or JOHNNY, ARUKO  
PO BOX 43 - CHUUK, FM 96942  
HETIBACK, ADAM  
PO BOX 66 - CHUUK, FM 96942  
NIFON, FREDDIE  
PO BOX 584 - WENO CHUUK, FM 96942  
JOSEPH, HURY  
ROMALUM ISLAND - TRUK, FSM 96942  
MANAS, EKAR or MANAS, KARILI  
PO BOX 765 - TRUK, FM 96942  
WERIEY, ANGKELA  
KUTTU ISLAND - WENO CHUUK, FM 96942  
KEIN, KUWARTINA or DHYLON, KUWARTINA  
PO BOX 87 - TRUK, FM 96942  
ERAM - PO BOX 165 - MOEN TRUK 96942  
SORCY, TALINA or SORCY, FJUTALINA  
PO BOX 352 - TRUK, FM 96942  
ROBY, CINDY KILLION & KILLION MARYJANE M  
IRAS WENO - CHUUK, FM 96942  
SELFIS, CHEN or SELFIS, ROSE  
PO BOX 281 - TRUK, FM 96942  
LDMONGO, ROLAND M  
PO BOX 87 - WENO CHUUK, FM 96942  
RUPACK, SILIPE or RUPACK, KAMAY  
PO BOX 403 - WENO CHUUK, FM 96942  
LDMONGO, RESTITUTO  
PO BOX 87 - CHUUK, FM 96942  
MORI, CAROLINE  
MWAN WENO - WENO CHUUK, FM 96942  
LIKKY, PASKAL  
LUKUNOR ISLAND - WENO CHUUK, FM 96942  
KANTO, ASARINA or KANTO, KIND  
MECHITIW WENO - CHUUK, FM 96942  
SILLUK, CECILIA  
MOEN ISLAND - TRUK STATE 96942  
ELIEISAR, ATANAITA 1/1 ELIEISAR, TIMER  
FEFAN FANIP - CHUUK, FSM 96942  
KUMOS, JOYMINA or MUTY, TENENA  
PO BOX 25 - CHUUK, FM 96942  
MEISAS, MARIANO K or MEISAS, VICKY  
PO BOX 568 - WENO CHUUK, FM 96942  
SORIM, HERTER  
PO BOX 27 - CHUUK, FM 96942  
SHIRAL, VERONICA  
PENIA WENO - CHUUK, FM 96942  
ROSE, BERDON  
EPINUP WENO - CHUUK STATE 96942  
FANUECH, JAYLEEN J  
PO BOX 117 - WENO CHUUK, FM 96942  
SAPWERIK, PATRISIA or OLODEY, ROSINA  
PO BOX 343 - WENO CHUUK, FM 96942  
SALMETAU, PETER  
MOCH ISLAND - CHUUK, FSM 96942  
BAKIN, TOMININA or BAKIN, SANTER  
SOPOTIW UMAN - CHUUK, FSM 96942

## WICHEPINU, LINEAGE

PO BOX 340 - CHUUK, FM 96942-0340  
WALTER, ONCHER  
PO BOX 722 - CHUUK, FM 96942  
SELLEN, ANITA - PIIS PANEU - CHUUK, FSM 96942  
REFILONG, PITIRINA  
PO BOX GX - CHUUK, FM 96942  
MANSISBROS  
PO BOX 1353 - CHUUK, FM 96942  
FRANCIS, LINDA 1/1 FRANCIS, MARBLEEN  
PO BOX 375 - CHUUK FM, 96942  
WILLIAM, MERLEEN  
PO BOX 863 - CHUUK, FM 96942  
SARET, ISAKO  
PO BOX 880 - CHUUK, FM 96942  
AIKEN, KARLYN or EFINY, JOYOUS  
PO BOX 5349 - MANGILAO, GUAM 96923  
ALBERT, MAYBLE - PO BOX 902 - CHUUK, FM 96942  
NAMELO, ISAK - PO BOX 1242 - CHUUK, FM 96942  
DETROIT, BOBBIE  
PO BOX 4705 - HAGATNA, GUAM 96932  
MATIN, JULIET  
PO BOX 621 - CHUUK, FM 96942  
ALEXANDER, KASNER  
PO BOX 1301 - CHUUK, FM 96942  
MAKAICHY, TUMUNU  
PO BOX 424 - CHUUK, FM 96942  
HOLY CROSS RECTORY  
PO BOX 939 - CHUUK, FM 96942  
SAMUEL, ANNA - PO BOX 291 - CHUUK, FM 96942  
HIKUTA, JAKE - PO BOX 1180 - CHUUK, FM 96942  
KONMAN, JULITA - PO BOX 492 - CHUUK, FM 96942  
SANIGY, SINDER - PO BOX 1478 - CHUUK, FM 96942  
THOMAS, KALISTO 1/1 WALTER, OWEN  
PO BOX 590 - CHUUK, FM 96942  
AKIN, KILARENIS or MAILO, TENSINE for AKIN FAMILY  
PO BOX 505342 CK - SAIPAN, MI 96950  
KINCHIRO, JULIE  
PO BOX 625 - CHUUK, FM 96942  
TERESI, CHITAUD  
PO BOX 627 - CHUUK, FM 96942  
HERRY, KETSY  
PO BOX 1296 - CHUUK, FM 96942  
KUMOS, THOMSON  
NEPIUKOS WENO/FOSON TOL - CHUUK, FM 96942  
CHIRO, GM - PO BOX 221 - CHUUK, FM 96942  
AMUO, FIND  
PO BOX 130 - WENO CHUUK, FM 96942  
LOUIS, JERRY B  
PO BOX 400 - CHUUK, FM 96942  
ESA, KEIKO N  
PO BOX 405 - CHUUK, FM 96942  
CHUUK HOLLOW BLOCK  
PO BOX 195 - CHUUK, FM 96942  
SIMON, RUDDLP  
PO BOX 459 - CHUUK, FM 96942  
LESSOV, REIKINA or SILLU, SIRAIKO  
PO BOX 1328 - CHUUK, FM 96942  
WALTER, REMEMBER  
PO BOX 1107 - CHUUK, FM 96942  
EPHRAIM, KESNER  
PO BOX 639 - WICHAP WENO - WENO CHUUK, FM 96942  
RUBEN, NOHA  
PO BOX 645 - CHUUK, FM 96942  
HETHON, MINSY  
PO BOX 863 - WENO CHUUK, FM 96942  
FRANCIS, ISAUO  
PO BOX 222 - WENO CHUUK, FM 96942  
NAMELO, NENSIN  
PO BOX 1621 - WENO CHUUK, FM 96942

HEINE, RISAE  
PO BOX 818 - WENO CHUUK, FM 96942  
OLOPUY, KONCHITA U 1/1 OLOPUY, JEROT R  
NEPIUKOS - WENO CHUUK, FM 96942  
IWO, AKAPE  
PO BOX 143 - WENO CHUUK, FM 96942  
POUNEMON, PANSY  
PO BOX 863 - CHUUK, FM 96942  
FISHBEIN, DANIEL or TIN OO CYNTHIE  
PO BOX 609 - CHUUK, FM 96942  
ECHIKAR, PAUL  
PO BOX 1058 - CHUUK, FM 96942  
MEISAS, MARIANO K  
PO BOX 568 - WENO CHUUK, FM 96942  
KOM, VINNIA  
PO BOX 1364 - CHUUK, FM 96942  
ERAM, ROLINA  
PO BOX 24291 - BARRIGADA, GU 96921  
FUMUO, EMIE  
PO BOX 1528 - WENO CHUUK, FM 96942  
ROBERT, KETRUTH S  
PO BOX 1169 - WENO CHUUK, FM 96942  
JAMES, SPLETTSTOSER  
PO BOX 1475 - WENO CHUUK, FM 96942  
THOMAS, HUTSON K  
PO BOX 590 - WENO CHUUK, FM 96942

## CHUUK BRANCH CHECKING ACCOUNTS

TRUK EDUCATION EMP CREDIT UNION  
PO BOX 460 - MOEN TRUK 96942  
VICARIATE JUSTICE AND DEVELOPMENT  
PO BOX 202 - WENO CHUUK, FM 96942  
CARING HAND TO MOUTH  
PO BOX 1042 - CHUUK, FM 96942-0960

## POHNPEI BRANCH SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

LADORE, MADILDE OR PETER, KA  
DODIHSE AWAK UH - PONAPE, CI 96941  
LINI MAKIO or LUDWIG YOSHIRO  
KOLONIA PONAPE, CI 96941  
CCM STUDENT BO or HADLEY, MELIPHER  
PO BOX 189 - POHNPEI, FM 96941  
POBUK, ROSELT S or OLTER, ROBERTOE  
PO BOX 157 - POHNPEI, FM 96941  
ANSON, TIMOTHY  
PO BOX 393 - POHNPEI, FM 96941  
CHARLIE, IKSAL E or CHARLIE, DHORA  
PINGELAP ATOLL - POHNPEI, FM 96941  
ALDIS, DANIS  
PO BOX 651 - POHNPEI, FM 96941  
SAICK, KAIUS  
PO BOX 1104 - POHNPEI, FM 96941  
POLLY, SAKAR or JOLLY, POLLY  
PO BOX N - POHNPEI, FM 96941  
NAHSON, TIMOTHY or NAHSON, JUNE 1/1 NAHSON, JUNE  
PO BOX 1107 - KOLONIA POHNPEI, FM 96941  
YOMA, ASUNCION  
PO BOX 345 - POHNPEI, FM 96941  
NARRON, WELLY  
PO BOX 1611 - POHNPEI, FM 96941  
TIHPEN, ORATIO  
GENERAL DELIVERY - POHNPEI, FM 96941  
RAYMOND, NORINE  
PO BOX 708 - POHNPEI, FM 96941  
KOSE, JOSEPH  
GENERAL DELIVERY - POHNPEI, FM 96941  
SILBANUS, KUSTINE or RAYNOR WILLIAM C  
PO BOX 39 POHNPEI FM, 96941  
CRUZ, NAPOLEON K  
PO BOX 178 - POHNPEI, FM 96941

BARTOLOME, VINCENT  
MWALOK SOKEHS - POHNPEI, FM 96941  
IOANIS, LIWITER  
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## Basics of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China

*Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the FSM*

The 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) was held in Beijing between October 18 and October 24, 2017. The CPC national congress, usually held every five years, unveils new leadership and sets a blueprint for national development for the next five years and beyond.

The Congress forms the major political judgments that socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era and the principal contradiction in the Chinese society has evolved into one between unbalanced and inadequate development and the people's ever-growing needs for a better life. The Congress elaborates on the Party's historic mission in the new era and establishes the historical position of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era.

The Congress highlights 14 points that form the basic policy underpinning the endeavors to uphold and develop socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era. They are: Ensure Party leadership over all work; commit to a people-centered approach; continue to comprehensively deepen reform; adopt a new vision for development; see that the people run the country; ensure every dimension of governance is law-based; uphold core socialist values; ensure and improve living standards through development; ensure harmony between human and nature; pursue a holistic approach to national security; uphold absolute Party leadership over the people's forces; uphold the principle of "one country, two systems" and promote national reunification; promote the building of a community with a shared future for mankind; and exercise full and rigorous governance over the Party.

The Congress stresses that the principles of "peaceful reunification" and "one country, two systems", economic and cultural exchanges and cooperation between the two sides of the Taiwan Straits must be upheld. Anyone, any organization, or any political party, at any time or in any form, to separate any part of the Chinese territory from China will be ever allowed.

The Congress endorses the report's analysis of the international situation and the guiding principles it sets out for China's foreign affairs. The Congress stresses that China will keep to the path of peaceful development, hold high the banner of peace, development, cooperation, and mutual benefit, and uphold its fundamental foreign policy goal of preserving world peace and promoting common development. China remains firm in its commitment to

strengthening friendship and cooperation with other countries on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. It will actively promote international cooperation through the Belt and Road Initiative, and continue to take an active part in reforming and developing the global governance system. It will work toward a new form of international relations featuring mutual respect, fairness, justice, and win-win cooperation and a community with a shared future for mankind, and work together with the people of all countries to build an open, inclusive, clean, and beautiful world that enjoys lasting peace, universal security, and common prosperity.

Xi Jinping(C), general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), and the other newly-elected members of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the 19th CPC Central Committee Li Keqiang (3rd R), Li Zhanshu (3rd L), Wang Yang (2nd R), Wang Huning (2nd L), Zhao Leji (1st R) and Han Zheng, meet the press at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, Oct. 25, 2017. (Xinhua/Li Tao)

The Communist Party of China (CPC) unveiled a new leadership lineup in Beijing on October 25 to lead the world's most populous nation toward a great modern socialist country.

Xi Jinping was again elected general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, leading its seven-seat Political Bureau Standing Committee.

The other six members of the top leadership are Li Keqiang, Li Zhanshu, Wang Yang, Wang Huning, Zhao Leji and Han Zheng.

The new CPC leaders are the helmsmen leading the Chinese toward the country's new era goals of basically realizing socialist modernization by 2035 and building a great modern socialist country by the middle of this century.

As a staunch reformist, Xi has launched more than 1,500 reform measures over the past five years -- unprecedented in their coverage and depth. Xi started his political career 44 years ago. Over the past five years, he has spent 151 days on 50 local inspection tours around the country.

A number of the leaders have played pivotal roles in the fight against poverty and successfully tackled difficult and risky issues in the fields of economic development, people's welfare, urban management, the anti-corruption campaign and industrial transformation.

The new leaders have a deeper understanding of opening up and win-win development, with broader global vision and abundant experience in dealing with international issues.

## Guest Perspectives

### Is China a Threat in the FSM?

Strategically located in the northwest Pacific, the Federated States of Micronesia, (FSM) has been in diplomatic relations with China for more than twenty-five years. However, this relationship has been a subject of political debate between the pro and anti-Chinese forces in the FSM. Critics of China claim that China is using the FSM as part of its moving frontier in the Pacific. This has been refuted by the pro-Chinese observers declaring that the FSM is acting within its own constitutional means which defines FSM's foreign policy; China is part of such a policy. Moreover, China has brought many benefits to the FSM, and so this relationship remains firm particularly in view of the scaling down of the USA's financial assistance under the Compact. The FSM's desire is to lessen its dependency on Compact funds; it is actively exploring different avenues to satisfy its economic objectives internationally. Perhaps, the USA is suspicious of China's motive as it perceives China as a growing threat to its security interest in the northwest Pacific. A unilateral decision by the USA to undermine or dislodge China may violate the FSM's Constitution and relevant international laws.

For the purpose of promoting discussion, I am raising the following questions: firstly, is China a threat in the FSM, and if so, a threat to whose interests? Secondly, how has this perceived threat emerged and does it constitute a real threat? Finally, if China is positioning itself to unleash its influence in the FSM, how is it doing this?

These fundamental questions are conceptually related to the old issue of super power rivalry in the FSM since the dawn of colonization. It further raises the question of whether or not Micronesians are passive bystanders or active participants in the decision making process that affect their own interests in this political equation. Many argue that the FSM considers China not as a threat, but an opportunity to expand the scope of its own international interests. They perceive the threat by China as foreign induced, one which does not sincerely take into account Micronesian perspective. Others perceive China's growing presence as positive especially in light of its economic assistance to the FSM coupled with its policy of non-

interference in FSM's domestic and international affairs.

China's presence, however, has been under intense scrutiny by critics querying the reason for China's sudden increased interest in the region. They have speculated that China is positioning itself to confront the US in its own so called territorial domain. China's intention, according to the critics, is to create a climate of mistrust which is likely to evolve into a new cold war front in the Pacific. This China phobia may be a new phase in FSM politics, but it is reminiscent of the legacy of the cold war period. Not surprisingly the critics continue to claim that China, like its former predecessor, the USSR, is working on completing the global socialist revolution to replace the USA to usher in a new world power. This underlying fear of China is foreign induced. Outside powers have not sought to consider islanders' perspectives of their relationship with China.

Many Micronesians perceive this antagonism towards China as part of the concerted efforts by the traditional powers to serve their own interests by constantly feeding islanders' propaganda reinforced by an entrenched system of indoctrination in an attempt to shelter them from engaging in an alternative form of economic system which they claim is not conducive to islanders' ways of life. In my interview with an official from China, he claimed that China is moving toward a market economy and the growing middle class has evolved albeit via a different route from the US. As China's Ambassador to the FSM articulated, "China understands that the FSM has a deep relationship with the US, and does not intend to work against that relationship. China has a policy to assist the developing countries in the world and the FSM is one of such countries".

Additionally, the Ambassador further noted that the China/FSM relationship is consistent with the principle of global cooperation espoused in the FSM Constitution which states:

"We extend to all nations what we seek from each: peace, friendship, cooperation, and love in our common humanity".

Zag Puas (PhD)

### Domestic Violence Act passes after nine years

After a prolonged review and deliberation period, the Ninth Pohnpei State Legislature, in a unanimous vote (20-0) voted in favor of the Domestic Violence Act of 2017. This new law basically established family violence offenses as a separate chapter under the criminal code, provides for emergency protective orders for the victims, and incorporates rehabilitation opportunities for the perpetrators.

Over the years while the Bill sat in Legislature, the Pohnpei Women Council organized lobbying activities and appeared before the Legislature more than once to lend support to the passage of the Bill. In an effort to preempt passage of the Bill, the council took one step further and renovated an old government building to use for response and intervention services to victims of family violence. Now that the law is finally in place, it's time to operationalize the delivery of that service.

Former Senator Magdalena Walter worked tirelessly to get her colleagues to come on board, so special acknowledgment of that work is proper and timely. The Pohnpeian students who came down from University of Guam to testify before the Committee did an excellent job of sharing their stories and a huge "Kalahngan" is extended to every one of them. The Association of Pacific Island Legislatures (APIL), back in 2011, passed a resolution urging passage of the Bill by the PSL. The foreign missions based in FSM, especially the Australian Mission, have consistently urged individual senators to support the Bill. At one point or another, during the past nine

years, people in various capacities have expressed strong support for the Bill. Thank you all very much.

In 2013, when Kosrae State Legislature passed their Family Protection law, there was much confidence that the momentum would spill across the ocean to the PSL to follow suit, but unfortunately, there were still outstanding concerns regarding certain provisions in the Bill. According to the coconut wireless, the perceived conflict this law would have on Pohnpeian custom was a dominant factor in the delay of its' passage.

Then right after Kosrae State passed its law, the UNFPA came into FSM and carried out a Family Health and Safety Study which revealed what was already known by many that violence against women exists in FSM (32.8%). In the final Standing Committee Report, it was the definition of the Discipline of Children that remained a concern so that was changed to align with the Constitution and Pohnpeian traditions. It should be noted here that Art. 5, s. 2 of the Pohnpeian Constitution clearly provides that where a statute is in conflict with Pohnpeian customs, the Legislature shall enact a new law to uphold that particular custom. The protection of Pohnpeian custom is therefore still paramount in this regard.

November 7, 2017 will go down in the history of Pohnpei as a particularly important day because of the passage of this new law establishing family violence as a criminal offense. At the end of the day, it is you, the Senators of the Ninth Pohnpei Legislature that made it all possible because you cast your affirmative vote on that day. Kaping lap oh mwuledek pwehki doadoahk eh pweidahr.

Now, onto enforcement!!!

Marstella E. Jack

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