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Clockwise from top: Youth 4 Change Group, Members of Youth 4 Change, Nathaniel Nanoto and Myrna Edward from Youth 4 Change singing, Jamie Manuel singing his original song
Photos by United Youth Media, Jade Paul, Rudy Andreas, and Joan Iohp



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Crime rumors bad timing for Harper re-election campaign

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

August 12, 2014

Chuuk, FSM—FSM Congress Floor Leader Florencio Singkoro-Harper is upset at rumors that he is a convicted felon and so not eligible for re-election to the Congress.

“What they’re saying is not true”, he said, waving a stack of printouts from the Micronesia Forum, a social network page that allows anonymous postings under fictitious names. He confided that he is currently looking for a way to bring charges against the people who posted the “lies about him” there.

Last year the Chuuk State Department of Administrative Service (CDAS) froze Harper’s bank accounts in order to collect \$351,747 in cigarette taxes the DAS said that he owed to the State. According to his complaint, his assets were frozen without court order.

He said that he had not paid the assessed tax because he had a legal opinion from Attorney Maketo Robert that said that the tax was unconstitutional.

He filed a Civil Action suit in the Chuuk Division of the FSM Supreme Court seeking injunctive and declaratory relief. CDAS never filed any actions, criminal or otherwise against Harper.

He claimed that the State tax was unconstitutional because he bought the cigarettes from a vendor or vendors in Pohnpei which is an interstate transaction under the jurisdiction of the FSM National Government and not the State Government. His complaint said that the tax assessment for the period of May 2012 to May 2013 was based on the airway bill and bill of lading rather than on sales receipts as the Chuuk law defines.

“The Defendant Department, in assessing



Congress Floor Leader Florencio Singkoro-Harper

sales tax based on actual imports, and not sales receipts, is exercising a power that is beyond the State power to regulate,” his complaint says. It asked for the Court to declare that the application of the Chuuk State Tax Act in final assessment of taxes is unconstitutional “based on its purported attempts to tax imports and not sales tax”.

An out of court settlement between Harper and CDAS was reached. The court never ruled on the matter other than to recognize the settlement terms which are confidential.

Harper said that the end result was that his assets were unfrozen and that he had paid an amount agreed on by both parties which was significantly less than the amount of tax CDAS had originally said he owed.

No criminal charges were filed against Harper in the matter and he is still an eligible candidate for the elections in March.

He’s still seeking recourse against those who posted rumors on the Micronesia Forum web page.

Reach Out Pacific again donates to the Pohnpei Public Library

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

August 11, 2014

Pohnpei, FSM—The Pohnpei Public Library seems like a new place thanks to yet another donation from Pacific REPAC (Reach Out Pacific), a program based in Hawaii. This is the third container that the group has sent to the Pohnpei Public Library.



Library patrons now sit in comfortable chairs and the library’s books are now perched on termite proof metal shelves.

REPAC has donated metal shelving, computers, tables, and books before. Their recent donation, valued at over \$5,000, arrived in a 20 foot container. The items were assembled by Library staff members and community volunteers. Some school librarians also assisted during the assembly process.

It took a week to assemble the shelves and to re-stock them. The library was closed from August 4-8 during the reorganization. When it re-opened it was like a brand new place.

When the most recent REPAC container arrived there were fees for clearing that the library didn’t have the budget to pay. Lester Ezekias, the head librarian said that Speaker Dohsis Halbert contributed the FSCO fee. He also wanted to thank Mike Chipen, Rekenson Gallen, John Isaac, and Swingly Johnson, Jr. for their assistance in the project.



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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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Kitti Hosts 2014 International Youth Day

By: **Stephanie Edward**
United Youth Media

This year's International Youth Day was split into a 2-day celebration, beginning with a Youth Leadership Workshop on August 11 and ending with a Youth Talent Show on August 12. The office of Luhkenmoanlap, Kitti Municipal Government, requested Kitti Municipality to host this year's event and opened up the Nahnpei Memorial High School for the festivities.

Local and State leadership support was shown in attendance of the Honorable Lt. Governor Peterson, who gave the Special Remarks and Luhkenmoanlap of Kitti, the Honorable Tony Sarapio, who welcomed the participants to the 2014 International Youth Day Celebration. The keynote speaker, Mr. Churchill Edward, added to the day's festivities with uplifting and encouraging words regarding the dangers of surrendering to stigmas and negativity. Following the short opening ceremony, several presentations were given to the Youth in attendance.

Despite a meager turnout on the first day of Youth Day, the program achieved its goal in supporting its theme, "Youth and Mental Health", by providing information on several topics in relation to youth and mental health.

Mrs. Veronica Andon, Educator for Behavior Health and Wellness, kicked off the presentations with "Substance Use

and Abuse". Mr. Andrew Falcam from Conservation Society of Pohnpei followed that with a presentation on Youth-to-Youth, a program that partners up sixth graders from participating elementary schools with offices dealing with environmental issues. Within this partnership, the students gain more information and responsibility regarding environmental issues. The office of Dental Health gave the third presentation, headed by Dr. Marcelle Gallen, Chief of Dental Health, and her assistant, Ms. Rose Ann Pama. Their presentation was complete with information on dental hygiene and the harsh realities and consequences of smoking, chewing betelnut and tobacco.

During the lunch break, the audience was treated to a meal and a show as Youth-4-Change (Y4C), an educational and awareness program, performed a skit on Teen Pregnancy and 2 songs. Family Planning Educator, Mr. Francisco Kerman, followed up their short performance with a few words to support the message they conveyed in their skit. Mr. Kerman had done a presentation on teen pregnancy for Y4C during their summer camp and asked them to showcase their knowledge of the subject. He was very pleased with their performance and expressed his gratitude for their assistance on his presentation. Island Food Community of Pohnpei's Emihner Johnson and Mona Tara gave the last presentation on CHEEF benefits, informing the youth on health benefits of local foods.

Mr. Marson Rosario, Chairman of the International Youth Day Organizing Committee, stated that he wanted a day to

showcase the youth and their talents. He came up with the idea for a Talent Show because he wanted a whole day for youth, not just for the usual singing and games, but for something more; a day where the youth feel free and are encouraged to show their unique talents.

Thus, second day of the celebrations brought youth together again to display their talents and skills. Mr. Reggie Julios opened the program with a message of faith and encouragement, urging young people to be connected with Jesus, who is the Life Source. Using a dead branch, broken off from a tree, he explained that without a connection to a source, there can be no life.

Two main groups registered to participate in the Talent Show: Y4C and St. Barnabas Youth. However, as the program progressed, more participants mustered their courage and gave impromptu performances.

The first performance of the day was given by the Y4C, performing their rendition of "Save A Life", by recording artist Shaggy and friends. The building resonated with their voices and their energy. Mr. Batikare Kariti, Jr., from St. Barnabas Youth, followed with a solo performance. After the fifth performance, impromptu performances began emerging, as the energy and excitement of the young people spread. Sub-groups were created on the spot from these two main groups, including more solo performances from St. Barnabas Youth, representatives from Nan Mand Youth, and duet performances by Y4C members. Their enjoyment of the day came out in their performances,

including soul-baring original songs, silly songs that had the audience roaring with laughter, and strong, positive songs with messages of encouragement for youth in their struggles with certain issues.

Mr. Kester James, Senior Citizen Coordinator from the Office of Social Affairs, gave the closing remarks to end the day's event. Mr. Rosario stated that he hopes that future events like these get more support and recognition from leaders at all levels, to help promote and unite youth.



Keynote Speaker Mr. Churchill Edward

GEF Small Grants Programme funds U Organization of Women

By **Maria Donre**
Secretary U Organization of Women

On August 07, 2014 through a signed Memorandum of Agreement the U Organization of Women (UOW) was granted funding from the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP) FSM to the amount of \$48,000. The project "U Seaside Clean-up and Environmental Protection Project" 17 months goal emphasis on improving coastal resources resiliency to climate change impacts and healthy community near shores water quality through community led sustainable households waste management in U Municipality through U Women's initiative by end of 2015.

The project contributes to UOW's desire and efforts of healthy and resilient environment and community sustainability through the following key project deliverables:

Output 1: Public awareness, information workshops, and promotional campaign on keeping U environmentally healthy carried out in five sections of U municipality.

Output 2: In partnership, inspection of shoreline pollutant sources would be conducted; five U women groups and communities would be mobilized to clean up on shoreline and roadsides, and planting of at least 1,800 Pandanus trees along the shoreline and roadside to mitigate coastal erosion with additional planting of 1,900 Plumeria trees implemented.

Output 3: Establish a community waste management Revolving Fund with aim to support U household waste disposal units implementation municipal wide.

Output 4: Trial and develop long term strategy to promote and sustain community support and households' participation in collaborative partnership with U Municipal Government on solid waste disposal service and recycling initiative.

The U Women groups and communities are an important part to the initiative. Partners included the International Organization on Migration (IOM), Conservation Society of Pohnpei (CSP), Pohnpei Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and U

See "U Grant" on page 10

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Private scholarships for top Micronesian students

Habele

Columbia, SC - A dozen bright young island students are headed to top private schools across the central Pacific nation of Micronesia. Their tuition scholarships, awarded by the Habele charity, were announced during a small ceremony at the Micronesian Embassy in Washington DC earlier this week.

Among the winners was Griselda Muut of Yap. She will be a sophomore at Yap Catholic High School (YCHS) this fall. Giselda lives with her mother Mary Layan and younger sister Margo in the Village of Kaday, a part of Weloy Municipality. Their father is deceased. Mary is an engaged parent who describes her daughter's school enthusiastically as "challenging" and "demanding." Rev. Michael P. Corcoran, the Jesuit headmaster of YCHS, explains Griselda, "worked extremely hard and earned 1st honors for the last quarter of her freshman year." Miss Muut is also active in village and school based athletic programs, in addition to participating in her village's traditional cultural dance ensemble.

The scholarships are privately funded and cover roughly three-fourths of tuition and fees at primary and secondary schools. More than 150 students from Yap, Chuuk, and Pohnpei States of the Federated States

of Micronesia (FSM) applied, seeking to attend independent, mostly religiously affiliated, elementary and high schools in the State Capitals.

Winners were chosen based on academic achievement, financial hardship and geographic isolation. The students will be enrolling at Saint Mary's, Yap SDA and Yap Catholic High School in Yap; Berea Christian and Xaiver High in Chuuk; as well as Calvary Christian Academy in Pohnpei.

Miss Muut is one of several 2014-15 awardees who earned a renewal of their Habele scholarship from last school year. Over the course of the academic year, Griselda and others regularly provided Habele with copies of their quarterly grades, academic and behavioral reports and awards, as well as photos of themselves engaged in extracurricular activities.

"This modest program expands access to top notch instruction for ambitious students in Micronesia's most remote villages, islands and atolls," explained Neil Mellen, of the US-based Habele, which awarded the scholarships. "The demand for these choice scholarships far exceeds our ability to provide them. We are grateful so many private US and European individuals have chosen to make this targeted investment."

YAP CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
Student Report Card 2013 - 2014

Griselda Habele,

Course	Q1	Q2	EXAM
Algebra	81	82	78
Earth Science	88	83	94
ELA	86	90	94
Literature	92	89	97
Religion	90	93	97
Social Studies	74	78	86
AVERAGE	85	86	91

Thank You for paying my tuition for the school year. Your support had helped me and my family. Yap Catholic High School is a very demanding school and it has been challenging. Your help had made it easier on my family to pay my tuition, and we appreciate your support.

Sincerely,
Griselda

Academic Honors	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	TOTAL
LATE	1	7	1		9
ABSENT	0	2	3		5

Habele was established as a South Carolina based nonprofit in 2006 by a group of former Peace Corps Volunteers who served as public school teachers in Micronesia. The charity provides support for libraries, sports leagues, academic clubs and mentorship programs in addition to its annual tuition scholarships.

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Owner: Kenneth and Cindy Welles

Summer camp 2014 celebration



By: Pohnpei Public Library

The Pohnpei Public Library celebrated the Summer Program 2014 on July 18, 2014. There was a short program that was prepared for the day, the participants sang a song entitled "Open Shut". Head Librarian welcomed everyone to the short program and thanked participants, volunteers and parents for their assistance during the four weeks program. All the participants received certificates and prizes presented by the staff. Head Librarian also handed out certificates to the contributors and volunteers for this year on behalf of the Friends of the Pohnpei Public Library.

The Theme for this year's Summer Program was "FIZZ BOOM READ". From the theme, the staff shared stories and provided activities for the kids mostly on science

experiments. These activities were sent in a manual by the Collaborative Summer Library Program in Iowa. The kids learned songs, made crafts and enjoyed other fun and educational activities. The Program was funded through a grant from Australian Foreign Aid. Vital FSM PetroCorp also assisted in providing some gifts and prizes for the participants. One of the goals was to increase the number of participants, with over 100 students registered in the program, the library met their goal. This Summer Reading has been very successful with the involvement of the volunteers, parents, participants and the contributors for this year. Friends of the Pohnpei Public Library would like to thank the Australian Embassy, Vital FSM PetroCorp, volunteers, parents and all the supporters for the Pohnpei Public Library.

Big Fish Tournament!

1st	\$800.00	Biggest skip jack	\$100.00
2nd	\$500.00	Biggest wahoo	\$100.00
3rd	\$300.00	Biggest GT	\$100.00
4th	\$200.00	Biggest barracuda	\$100.00
5th	\$150.00	Biggest mahi mahi	\$100.00

Lady angler	\$100.00
Junior angler	\$100.00

Registration is August 29 from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Check out is at Lidikihka from 6:00 to 8:00 a.m., August 30.

Weigh in is from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m at Mangrove Bay.

Entry is \$25.00.

The Fishing Club is supporting the Pohnpei Public Library with a barbecue.

Big prizes and come support our sponsor Matson.

Check out the Blue Nile annual tournament the following week on September 6.

This will be another big tournament, so keep that gear ready!

The kids tournament is set for September 20.

All at Mangrove Bay!



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Pacific Island leaders support work of PNA

The Association of Pacific Island Legislatures (APIL) has adopted a measure applauding members of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement, known as the PNA, for their "firm and decisive actions" to conserve tuna populations while increasing financial returns to the region. This marks the association's first resolution supporting regional efforts to conserve and manage tuna fisheries.

In recent years, the PNA states—eight Pacific island nations that manage their tuna fisheries collectively— have taken steps to increase economic benefits from tuna fishing, while expanding management and conservation measures to protect tuna populations. These actions have resulted in a nearly four-fold increase in revenues to members since 2010.

This resolution encourages Pacific island leaders to support regional efforts that conserve our tuna populations. The PNA fisheries ministers have been working so hard to make sure our future generations enjoy the benefits of healthy tuna fisheries," said Edgar Lickaneth, a senator from Pohnpei, one of the four Federated States of Micronesia, and the measure's sponsor. "We know that more fishing boats are under construction and are coming to our waters. That's what really concerns me.

Formed in 1981, APIL is comprised of legislators from 12 island governments who work together on matters of mutual concern and interest. The resolution on tuna fisheries, adopted July 17, 2014, also calls

on PNA leaders to enter into dialogues with other countries in order to help additional Pacific islands benefit from similar efforts.

Association members are "conscious of the need to manage and to conserve the tuna stocks within our region, not only for the islanders of today, but, more importantly, for our sons and daughters and their sons and daughters for many generations to come," the resolution says.

Adam Baske of The Pew Charitable Trusts' global tuna conservation project praised APIL for encouraging action in the western and central Pacific. "It is critical to the future of the region that Pacific islander legislatures support initiatives to safeguard tuna fisheries for the future," he said.

Baske added that adoption of the resolution in the Marshall Islands, home of the PNA offices and therefore a hub for tuna conservation efforts in the Pacific, "underscores the growing momentum for responsibly managing these fisheries across the region and sends a signal to the rest of the world that more needs to be done." He concluded, "We support the association's efforts and hope that its leadership inspires other nations to protect these important fisheries.

The sustainability of tuna fishing, valued at more than \$7 billion per year in the western and central Pacific Ocean, is threatened because the growth in fishing fleets risk depleting fish populations. Glenn Hurry, executive director of the Western and

Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, said that the growth "is not good news and no one wants to hear it. We're trying to tell people: you can't fish at this level and expect it to last.

Additional attention from Pacific lawmakers to mounting fishing pressure could lead to legislation supporting the PNA and implementation of the prudent management measures the organization has applied. Currently, many APIL countries do not have laws on the books that give teeth to their commitments on regional fisheries management. Reforming fisheries laws would lead to more sustainable practices by local and foreign fleets fishing in the waters of Pacific island countries.

The association of legislatures is made up representatives from the Northern Marianas, Guam, Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia (Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae), the Marshall Islands, Kiribati, American Samoa, Nauru, and Hawaii. The extent of ocean encompassed by the exclusive economic zones of

the member countries, territories, and states totals an area larger than the combined land masses of the continental United States and the European Union countries. APIL members have previously addressed shark conservation issues, and 10 jurisdictions have enacted such protections in recent years.

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MRA OPENS OFFICE IN CHUUK

Micronesian Registration Advisors, Inc. (MRA) is pleased to announce its new office at the L5 building in Chuuk.



Jovian Samor

We also welcome Jovian Samor to MRA's Chuuk office.



MRA reception desk and sign at HQ

MRA advises the FSM's Registrar of Corporations and promotes the FSM in Japan to encourage the formation of captive insurance companies and overseas investment corporations in the FSM. Those corporations in turn pay corporate income tax to the FSM and help the FSM through donations, direct investments and hundreds of visitor nights in all states in each of the last few years.

Passionate trainer helps PPA assign police powers to its security personnel



Trainer Dean Delgado from Guam International Airport Police received a Certificate of Appreciation from Pohnpei State Governor Hon. John Ehsa for "his dedication and commitment in the enhancement of the Pohnpei Port Authority's Airport & Seaport police through the Active shooter/ Baton Certification training held from July 07-18, 2014 in Pohnpei, Federated State of Micronesia"

Pohnpei Port Authority

As part of Pohnpei Port Authority's (PPA) effort to assume full responsibility over security screening requirements of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) which is currently being carried out by United Airlines, in 2013, PPA in collaboration with the National Government's Department of Transportation, Communication and Infrastructure (DTC&I) reached out to the Airport Authority of Guam for the training required for the transfer of all relevant security screening responsibilities normally associated with Airports. This effort aims to bring PPA up to par with other airports in

the region such as the Republic of Palau (ROP) where airports have full responsibility over all airport law enforcement and security requirements. In response, the Guam Airport Police sent Trainer Dean Delgado to conduct the first series of required trainings in August, 2013. This initial training arrangement was done under a contract between PPA and Trainer Delgado for his services. Under this arrangement, Trainer Delgado conducted a Firearms Certification training which included both PPA security personnel and DPS's police officers.

In order to provide PPA security personnel with the authority required for this new role, the office of the governor and the Director of the Department of Public Safety (DPS) approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), assigning full police powers to those PPA security personnel who have gone through the trainings and certifications required to perform all duties previously limited to Pohnpei police officers. Since the above mentioned MOU, Trainer Delgado has conducted trainings critical to the new police powers assigned to PPA's security personnel.

However, all the trainings that follow the initial arrangement between PPA and Trainer Delgado for his services have been done without any compensation. According to Trainer Delgado, because of his passion and commitment to improving the security capacity of airports in the islands, and from friendships that he has made during the course of his first training, the trainings that follow have been done on his own personal leave. In February, 2014, Trainer Delgado conducted a defense Tactics-Pepper Spray training and certification. This month (July, 2014), he conducted an Active Shooter/Baton training and certification.

With the successful completion of these trainings, PPA and DTC&I expect to see a transfer of security screening responsibility from United Airlines to PPA in 2015.

President Mori updates Congress on Weno Road Project status: construction could start by early August

FSM Information Services

July 25, 2014

In a July 9th letter to Speaker Dohsis Halbert, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) President Manny Mori updated Congress on the status of the Weno Road Phase 1 Project.

President Mori told Congress that the two infrastructure sector grants for the road project suspended by the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), United States Department of the Interior, have been freed. He stated that such decision cleared the way for approximately \$4.5 million of funds already available, -- remaining funds when the project got put on hold.

President Mori stressed that the Program Management Unit (PMU) at the FSM Department of Transportation, Communication and Infrastructure, "anticipates receipt of independent cost estimates and construction schedule from Stanley Consultants before the end of the week" (week of July 7).

The President also said that upon receipt, the estimates would be sent to OIA for review, followed by the issuance of additional funds under Infrastructure Development sector for completion of the project.

"The PMU will contract with GPPC Inc, which was awarded the bid with the condition of the availability of the funds as soon as possible, using the bid already submitted and funds in hand. The total amount of GPPC bid to complete the Weno Road Phase 1 is \$7,703,382. Once the remaining funds are received, a change order for the remaining work will be executed so that the project may proceed to completion. It is anticipated that work could start by early August. The period of completion of the project is 15 months."

The President's update included information received from the Director of Budget and Grants Management, Office of Insular Affairs, Mr. Tom Bussanich, provided through a July 3rd letter to FSM Secretary of TC&I, Mr. Francis Itimai.

Mr. Bussanich's letter was copied and enclosed with the update for Congress.

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Peace Corps swearing in ceremony

*Embassy of the
United States of America Kolonia*

Peace Corps Country Director Robert Reid performed the formal swearing in of 18 new Peace Corps Volunteers on August 12 at the Tuna Commission in Kolonia. The Volunteers will be assigned to elementary schools in all four of the FSM States. Nine volunteers are headed to Yap State and its outer islands, three to Pohnpei, three to Kosrae, and three to the Mortlock Islands in Chuuk State.

The primary mission of these two-year Volunteers will be to work as co-teachers and co-planners in the Peace Corps Teaching English as a Second Language project. When requested, they will assist their school principals to write school improvement plans, which are a high priority for the departments of education in each state. In addition, each Peace Corps Volunteer will use her/his skills to work on secondary activities in their schools and communities. Volunteers in the past have worked on school infrastructure projects, community gardens, youth camps, disaster risk reduction, sports, libraries, arts, and music.

FSM and Conservation International signed MOU on \$1,000,000.00 to Micronesia Challenge Endowment

FSM Information Services

July 25, 2014

On July 22, 2014 in a small gathering at the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) President's Conference Room, H.E. President Emanuel (Manny) Mori and Mrs. Sue M. Taei, Conservation International (CI) Pacific Islands Program Executive Director, officially signed a memorandum of understanding on Conservation International's USD \$1 million pledge in support of the Micronesia Challenge (MC).

During the event, the FSM's Focal Point to the MC, Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT) Deputy Director and CI Executive Director Taei met with FSM President Mori, FSM Department of Resource and Development Secretary Marion Henry and FSM Chief of Staff Leo Falcam, Jr. to initiate the official transfer of CI's \$1,000,000.00 contribution into the Micronesia Challenge Endowment. This signed MOU would instigate the \$1 million transfer which represents CI financial commitment in supporting the advancement of the Micronesia Challenge in the FSM made in 2006 at the Eighth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Curitiba, Brazil.

Mrs. Taei highlighted this MOU signing was a milestone to FSM's Phase 1 of its MC Sustainable Finance Plan and that CI's pledge would add value to the tremendous work by FSM both domestically and internationally to advance the MC. Subsequent to the exchange of signatures on the MOU, President Mori indicated he looked forward to receiving CI's pledge on behalf of FSM in the margins of the Forty Fifth Meeting of the Pacific Forum Leaders in Palau on July 28, 2014.

The Micronesia Challenge is a regional inter-governmental initiative between FSM, Marshall Islands, Palau, the U.S. territories of Guam and Northern Mariana Islands. The goal of the MC is to conserve and effectively manage 30% of near shore marine resources and 20% of terrestrial resources by the year 2020. These island nations and territories represent nearly 5 percent of the marine area of the Pacific Ocean and 7 percent of its coastlines. As a result of the Micronesia Challenge declaration by the five Micronesia government jurisdictions, the Micronesia Conservation Trust has been selected to house and administer the MC endowment.

At the conclusion of the MOU signing, all three parties expressed their desire to continue their effort as partners to seek both internal and international funding support of Phase 2 on the Micronesia Challenge Sustainable Finance Plan.



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(Job Description detail is available for pick up at Peace Corps Main Office.)

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President Mori holds bilateral meeting with Russian Federation envoy at the Pacific Islands Forum, Palau

FSM Information Services
July 31, 2014

Nikolay R. Kudashev and Mr. Igor Khovaev, who said they were grateful for the opportunity to meet with President Mori.

Ambassador Kudashev stated that based on new opportunities and global conditions, Russia is enhancing bilateral and multilateral relations with Pacific countries, including the FSM.

He also pointed out that Russia's interest in deepening ties with the FSM will take on genuine and mutual cooperation without creating obstacles or undermining FSM's relations with other countries.

Accompanied by his Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Lorin Robert, Secretary of Justice, Mrs. April Dawn Skilling, and his Chief of Staff, Mr.

On Monday, July 28, Federated State of Micronesia President Manny Mori held a meeting with representatives of the Russian Federation at the Palau Pacific Resort in Koror, Palau.

The meeting was President Mori's first official encounter with Russia, facilitated by the occasion of the 45th Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) being held in Palau. The Russian officials have taken the opportunity to engage with Pacific countries as an invited country in the Post-Forum Dialogue between PIF Member States and their respective country and agency development partners, which will be held on Friday, August 1st.

Representing the Russian Federation were Ambassador

See "Russia and FSM" on page 12



The U.S. and FSM sign Maritime Boundary Agreement

Embassy of the United States of America

August 1, 2014

Koror, Palau - This morning, the United States and the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) signed a boundary treaty delimiting the waters between their two countries. The boundary treaty was signed on behalf of the United States by Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Dennise Mathieu and, for the FSM, by Secretary of Foreign Affairs Lorin Robert. The treaty was signed in Koror, Palau, at the Pacific Islands Forum meeting.

During the signing ceremony Deputy Assistant Secretary Mathieu said, "Maritime boundaries promote good order at sea, and peaceful relations between countries. But a boundary is also symbolic, and this boundary treaty reflects the important bonds of friendship between our two countries and the close relations between the people of the United States of America and the people of the Federated States of Micronesia."

Mathieu added, "Working with FSM on this important endeavor was truly a pleasure for the U.S. team. The U.S. would like to extend its appreciation to the Federated States of Micronesia for the spirit of collaboration that guided the negotiation teams to this successful conclusion."

Secretary of Foreign Affairs Robert remarked that the signing was "very important and timely given the theme of this year's forum -- Ocean: life and future. With a well-defined boundary between the U.S. Territory of Guam and the FSM now in place, today's occasion only confirms and strengthens the obvious. The obvious being the Micronesian tradition that we are peoples of the seas; we take pride in the stewardship and benefit from the bounties of the ocean."

The treaty is a significant accomplishment for both countries and reflects the collaborative spirit and friendly relations between the United States and the Federated States of Micronesia.

The treaty concludes a boundary that will divide the maritime space between the U.S. territory of Guam and the Caroline Islands of the Federated States of Micronesia. The treaty, with appropriate technical adjustments, formalizes a boundary that had been informally adhered to by the two countries previously on the basis of the principle of equidistance, such that the line is equal in distance from each country. The boundary is 828 kilometers (447 nautical miles) in length.

This is the second treaty to delimit a maritime boundary that the United States has signed since last year and demonstrates the United States' growing effort to address unsettled maritime boundaries with its neighbors. The United States and Kiribati signed a maritime boundary treaty in 2013 at the Pacific Island Forum meeting in Majuro.

The treaty will enter into force upon ratification by both countries. For the United States, ratification is subject to the advice and consent of the United States Senate.



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FSM's trade promotion mission met with LOTTE Duty Free Guam as producers target Guam high end tourist market

Information Services

July 21, 2014

Palikir, Pohnpei - On July 3, 2014, a trade promotion mission led by the Honorable Robert Ruechu, Consul General of the FSM to Guam, and comprising Mr. Wilbur Walter, President of Nih Corporation and Board Member of the FSM Association of Chambers of Commerce, and Mr. Jean Bertrand Azapmo, National Trade Adviser under the Commonwealth Secretariat, Hub & Spokes Programme, met with Ms. Seong Cho, Sales Manager, Food and Accessories & Gifts, LOTTE Duty Free Guam. The main purpose of this Meeting, which took place at the Conference Room of LOTTE Duty Free office near Guam International Airport, was to discuss the promotion of Pohnpei coffee and virgin coconut oil at LOTTE Duty Free stores and explore other business opportunities.

During the discussions, Mr. Walter, on behalf of producers, informed Ms. Seong of prior exchange of communications with the previous management of LOTTE Duty Free and reaffirmed his determination to pursue and strengthen the business relation with the new management. In addition, the FSM Delegation discussed other niche and unique products of the FSM, which could be promoted and sold within their stores, including the "famous" Pohnpei black pepper. Ms. Seong enthusiastically confirmed LOTTE Duty Free's interest to promote and sell FSM's niche products, including the black pepper, as soon as they are available and an agreement is signed with the producers. Furthermore, Ms. Seong informed the FSM Delegation that LOTTE Duty Free has renovated its store at Guam International Airport. The store now has a section on "Discover Guam & Micronesia", which promotes niche and cultural products of Guam and the Micronesian region.

The trade promotion mission to Guam, which was the second of its kind to be conducted this year with the support of the Division of Trade and Investment, FSM Department of Resources and Development, is in line with the FSM Trade Policy and National Export Strategy, which recommend among other things providing support to the productive sector to promote their products and seek new markets, focusing on niche products. The first trade promotion mission of this year was to Ebeye, Republic of the Marshall Islands, in relation to expansion of agriculture exports originating from the State of Kosrae.

Following the exploratory trade promotion mission, a follow-up meeting, involving the main players will be convened to discuss among other things, the following key issues: volume of virgin coconut oil and black pepper constantly available, the networking of producers and suppliers, and the quality and standards of the products, including the grade, packaging and labeling.

World Day against Trafficking in Persons

The International Organization for Migration

The International Organization for Migration Micronesia (IOM) joins the rest of the world in celebrating the First World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, July 30, 2014.

"The First World Day Against Trafficking in Persons is a call for action to end this crime and give hope to the victims, who often live unrecognized among us. To stop the traffickers, we must sever funding pipelines and seize assets. I urge all countries to ratify and fully implement the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and its protocol on Trafficking in Persons", stated United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon in an address for the occasion.

The Migrant Resource Center, established by IOM in Kolonia, Pohnpei, has been providing pre-departure orientation for migrants and anti-human trafficking awareness trainings since its founding in March of 2013 as the first of its kind in the region. The MRC adopts the "3P" paradigm--- prevention, protection

and prosecution – which serves as the fundamental global framework to combat human trafficking. Since inception, the MRC has reached over 6,000 Micronesians with human trafficking awareness activities. Trafficking in Persons shall mean, "the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of a person, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation".

If you know or suspect a case of human trafficking, you should contact your local authorities:

- 1) State Police, 320-2221
- 2) National Police, 320-2628
- 3) Micronesian Trans-National Crime Unit, 320-5713
- 4) FSM Department of Justice, 320-2644
- 5) International Organization for Migration, 320-8735
- 6) Migrant Resource Center, 320-8898

...U Grant

Continued from page 3

Municipal Government (UMG) who have been involved in the project design and are integral to the success of the activities. In partnership we can learn from each other and have a greater impact on our community's well-being and sustainable development. Special recognition goes to President Mikaila Pertin, U Chief Minister, Patricio Ramirez and Speaker Dahker Abraham of U Municipal Council for their commitment to the project's success. UOW also wishes to express its appreciation to Mr. Herman Semes who worked hard to put together the project as consultant. Lastly we wish to thank the FSM GEF Small Grants Programme, UNDP and the GEF partnership for the support.



Micronesian Trade Committee Ministers meet in Pohnpei with goals of sustainable economic development

FSM Information Services

July 24, 2014

Palikir, Pohnpei - During the 6th MTC Meeting held on July 14-16, at Congress Central Facilities, Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Ministers of the FSM and the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) discussed the upgrading the Memorandum of Understanding establishing the MTC into a Treaty as mandated in 2012 by the 12th Micronesian Presidents' Summit. MTC Ministers acknowledged that sub-regional trade and economic cooperation and integration represents a tool that could help the Member States achieving sustainable economic development, in particular in a context characterized by the gradual declining and expiration of the Compact Sector Grants under the Amended Compact of Free Association with the United States of America in 2023.

In this regards MTC Ministers welcomed the progress accomplished in developing the Treaty and endorsed the proposed multi-phased approach towards the realization of a "community" of shared prosperity among the Member States. Furthermore, the 6th MTC Ministers Meeting noted with appreciation the contribution and support of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Trade and Investment Division; the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat; the Commonwealth Secretariat, Hub & Spokes Programme; and Melanesian Spearhead Group Secretariat. Given the critical importance of the matter, MTC Ministers directed the MTC Interim Secretariat, in close consultation with the Member States and collaboration with relevant technical agencies, to expedite the finalization of

The Small Grants Programme, FSM is part of a global GEF funding modality initiative implemented by UNDP on behalf of GEF partnership to provide grants to FSM NGOs and community-based initiatives that works to mitigate threats to the environment, support sustainable community livelihood development and to build capacity of its grantees to be more effective. The Programme is hosted by the UN Joint Presence Initiative office in country on Kaselehlie Street in Pohnpei.

outstanding issues, including the name of the new entity, for consideration by Ministers and signing by the Presidents before the end of 2014.

In addition to the discussion on the Treaty, the 6th MTC Ministers' Meeting also considered and adopted the 2015-2019 MTC Work Program; and urged the Interim Secretariat to prioritize the finalization of the Treaty and awareness regarding the vision and goals as well as objective of the MTC.

Finally, MTC Ministers commended the MTC Interim Secretariat for its achievements, in particular the collaborative work with MTC Member States, which led to the recognition of the MTC in the Bangkok Declaration on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific.

It should be recalled that the MTC was established through a Memorandum of Understanding on July 3, 2008, in Pohnpei, FSM, as mandated by the 7th Micronesian Presidents' Summit. The vision and goals of the MTC are to endeavor towards the creation of a Micronesian trade and economic "community" through the promotion of sub-regional trade and economic cooperation and integration to support the achievement of sustainable and equitable socio-economic development of its Member States and improve the standard and quality of life of their People.

For more information regarding the 6th MTC Ministers' Meeting, please contact the MTC Interim Secretariat (FSM Department of Resources and Development, Division of Trade and Investment), at telephone number (691) 320-5133/2646.

JICA donated 200 ICT kits to FSM Department of Health

Japan International Cooperation Agency

JICA Micronesia has donated 200 Immuno-Chromatographic Test (ICT) kits and medical supplies to support the Pacific Program to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis (PacELF) in the FSM. On July 14, 2014, Inspector Mr. Wiriell Dewey from FSM

Department of Health & Social Affairs received and inspected the ICT filariasis Rapid Assessment kit and ensured its proper storage. The kit are planned to be delivered to the four states including outer islands of the FSM. Since 2001, JICA has donated Diethyl Carbamazine (DEC) tablets and ICT filarial antigen Test kits to the FSM in

Pacific Leaders commit to a renewed framework for Pacific Regionalism and more at Forum Leaders meeting

FSM Information Services

August 4, 2014

The Forty-Fifth Pacific Islands Forum Leaders meeting concluded in Koror, Republic of Palau on July 31st, 2014. The meeting was attended by the Federated States of Micronesia President Manny Mori and other Heads State and Government from the Republic of Kiribati, the Republic of Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu.

Australia was represented by its Deputy Prime Minister while New Zealand and the Republic of Vanuatu were represented by their respective Ministers of Foreign Affairs. The Cook Islands Minister of Finance represented his country.

As Associate Members of the Pacific Islands Forum, the French Polynesia and New Caledonia attended the formal session and were given opportunities to address the Pacific Leaders.

Other governments and organizations also attended the session as Observers including Tokelau, Timor-Leste, Wallis and Futuna, the Asian Development Bank, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the United Nations (UN), the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), and the World Bank.

Also, some Heads of Organizations and senior officials from the following groups were at the formal session: The Council of Regional Organizations of the Pacific (CROP); The Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (PIFFA); the Pacific Islands Development Program (PIDP); the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC); the South Pacific Tourism Organization (SPTO); the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP); and the University of the South Pacific (USP).

Based on presentations and discussions undertaken at the formal plenary on July 30th and decisions agreed upon at their retreat in Peleliu, Palau a day later, the Pacific Leaders issued an outcome Communiqué that details the collective actions for short and long term regional focus.

Following decisions made at a special retreat on May 5, 2014 in the Cook Islands, the Leaders endorsed the renewed Pacific Plan calling for strong partnerships and well-defined principles fostering inclusivity and regionalism. They also affirmed the important roles the CROP agencies play in relation to the Framework for Pacific Regionalism and directed the Forum Secretariat to ensure higher transparency and efficiency of meetings.

In view of the Post 2015 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) being discussed at the global

support of PacELF program in collaboration with WHO to achieve the elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis from the FSM. The program is currently in the Phase 3 (2010-2014) and several remarkable outcomes have been confirmed through the program. It has been contributing to healthy lives and wellness in the FSM. JICA sees the Health sector as a priority issue in the FSM and will continue to support in this area.

JICA is an agency of the Government of Japan responsible for implementing technical cooperation, grant aid and yen loan programs of Japan's ODA to developing countries. JICA is the world's largest bilateral development organization, operating in some 150 countries to help some of the globe's most vulnerable people. Its core professional staff works hand in hand with dispatched Japanese personnel, experts

and volunteers and local staff in the overseas office in promoting human security which is incorporated in about a hundred on-going cooperation programs.



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level, the Pacific Leaders expressed concern regarding the number of goals and targets and called on the global community to focus on limited number of SDG's and make the agenda more achievable. Given the concern and other needs, the Leaders looked forward to the upcoming Small Islands Development States (SIDS) international conference in Apia, Samoa in September 2014 as a platform for unified interventions by the Forum Island Countries (FIC's) to affect global development agendas and ensure the inclusion of Ocean Sustainable Development as a stand-alone goal to be emphasized under the post-2015 global SDG's.

The Leaders also endorsed the Palau Declaration on 'The Ocean: Life and Future' as a document by the PIF Leaders. This declaration stresses the importance of the ocean to Pacific people, enumerates the existing threats and dangers facing and faced by ocean populations, and emphasizes the need for integrated management approaches for sustainable utilization and conservation of marine habitats and resources.

The Leaders also undertook actions and provided direction on the treatment of issues relating to the threat of invasive species on Pacific economies and communities, Fiji's readmission to the Forum, Regional

Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI), Transnational and Border Security Issues, Radioactive Contamination in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Private Sector Dialogue in the region.

Additionally, the Leaders agreed to accept Tokelau's application for Associate Membership in the Forum and admitted the International Organization for Migration (IOM) under Observer status. Spain and Turkey were also granted membership in the Post-Forum Dialogue (PFD), which took immediate effect at the August 1st meeting between Partner countries and the PIF Member-States.

After six years of leading the Forum Secretariat, Leaders expressed their appreciation to Mr. Tuiloma Neroni Slade for his significant role in the strengthening of the region the past six years. To replace Mr. Slade, the Leaders appointed Mrs. Dame Meg Taylor of Papua New Guinea as the new Forum Secretariat Secretary-General for a three year term, beginning in November 2014.

As confirmed, future PIF Leaders Meeting will be held as follows: Papua New Guinea in 2015; the Federated States of Micronesia in 2016; Samoa in 2017; Nauru in 2018 and Tuvalu in 2019.



Pacific Islands Forum Leaders at their meeting in Palau, standing row, from left: Forum Secretary-General Slade, New Zealand Minister of Foreign Affairs Murray McCully; Tuvalu Prime Minister Enele Sopoaga; Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Peter O'Neill; FSM President Manny Mori; Premier of Niue Toke Talagi; Cook Islands Minister of Finance Mark Brown; Deputy Prime Minister of Australia Warren Truss; and Prime Minister of Vanuatu Joe Natuman; sitting row, from left: President of the Republic of Kiribati Anote Tong; Prime Minister of Tonga Siale'ataongo Tu'ivakano; Republic of Palau President Tommy Remengesau Jr.; EU Official; Republic of the Marshall Islands President Christopher Loeak; Samoa Prime Minister Tuilaepa Aiono Sailele Malielegaoi; President of Nauru Baron Waqa, Solomon Islands Prime Minister Gordon Darcy Lilo

...Russia and FSM

Continued from page 9

Leo Falcam Jr., President Mori discussed some interests in the areas of climate change support, tourism, renewable energy, health, sport development, and others.

The Russian officials stressed that people to people exchange, through tourism and other program, would be the most beneficial way in enhancing understanding between the two countries. They also spoke about Russia's experience of the visa-free program that facilitates tourism in other parts of the Pacific.

Ambassador Kudashev also highlighted climate change as a priority agenda for his country, noting FSM's active role in climate change discussions in the global arena.

Ambassador Kudashev invited the FSM to take advantage of the Russian Federation's diplomatic trainings in Moscow, which include the study of Russia's foreign policy in a changing world.

Kudashev is the Ambassador-designate to the FSM. At this meetings, the schedule for his presentation of credentials in Palikir during the October-November timeframe was also explored.

The meeting allowed the FSM and Russia the opportunity to reaffirm diplomatic relations established in 1999.

ONPA releases new audit on public debt management, FSM National Government - - FY 2012

The Office of the National Public Auditor

The Office of the National Public Auditor (ONPA) announces the release of Audit Report No. 2014-07, Audit of the Public Debt Management for the National Government of the Federated States of Micronesia as of the fiscal year 2012. A digital copy of the report is available for public viewing online at <http://www.fsmopa.fm> and printed copies are available at the ONPA's offices in Palikir, Pohnpei and on Weno, Chuuk. The audit was conducted by ONPA as part of a cooperative audit initiative undertaken by the Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions (PASAI) with the support of Asian Development Bank (ADB) and INTOSAI Development Initiative (IDI). Furthermore, it was conducted pursuant to Title 55 of the FSM Code, Chapter 5 and in accordance with the Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards (GAGAS) issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

The objective of the audit was to assess the adequacy of the FSM National public debt management with respect to:

- The legal and institutional framework and the related processes and controls on compliance, monitoring and reporting.
- Government loan relending and guaranteeing activities.

Based on the audit, the ONPA concludes that the National Government's legal and institutional framework lacked the permanent and necessary provisions to implement adequately the system of debt management. It is only during the approval of each debt that the FSM Congress defines the requirements and some functions related to debt management. The basic requirements include borrowing purposes, debt management goals and objectives, reporting of debt obligations and others. The ONPA also found that the institutional framework needs further strengthening prior to deployment of debt management system. Similar to the legal framework, the institutional functions related to debt management were scattered and performed by different departments and offices without proper coordination to ensure an adequate debt management. Lastly, the ONPA found that the State Governments and their public enterprises could generate risks to the National Government not only in consequence of guaranteed loans but also by the risks of undisciplined borrowing and unsustainable manner of borrowings. However, there has been no limit on such borrowings and analysis of the related risks.

The audit disclosed the following findings;

1. \$21 million of the FSM's external debt was spent for failed or partly

successful projects.

2. \$13 million in Trust Account/Sinking Fund not regularly assessed whether sufficient for the repayment of the associated loans with outstanding balance of \$31 million;
3. Legal framework was limited and lacked provisions to enable the implementation of a sound debt management system;
4. Limited organizational functions resulted in inadequate implementation of an effective debt management system;
5. Absence of loan limit and regular risk analysis on the States' and public enterprises' loans and on guaranteed and/ or relent loans; and,
6. Lack of available information on public debt and borrowing activities.

The details of the findings including the related recommendations are presented in the audit report. Its contents were discussed with the officials from the concerned departments/offices mainly the Department of Finance & Administration. During the exit conference with the department's officials, they indicated their agreement with the findings and recommendations. However, the DoF&A management officials chose not to provide any written Management Responses therefore; the final audit report was issued without the usual Management Response.

POHNPEI PORT AUTHORITY


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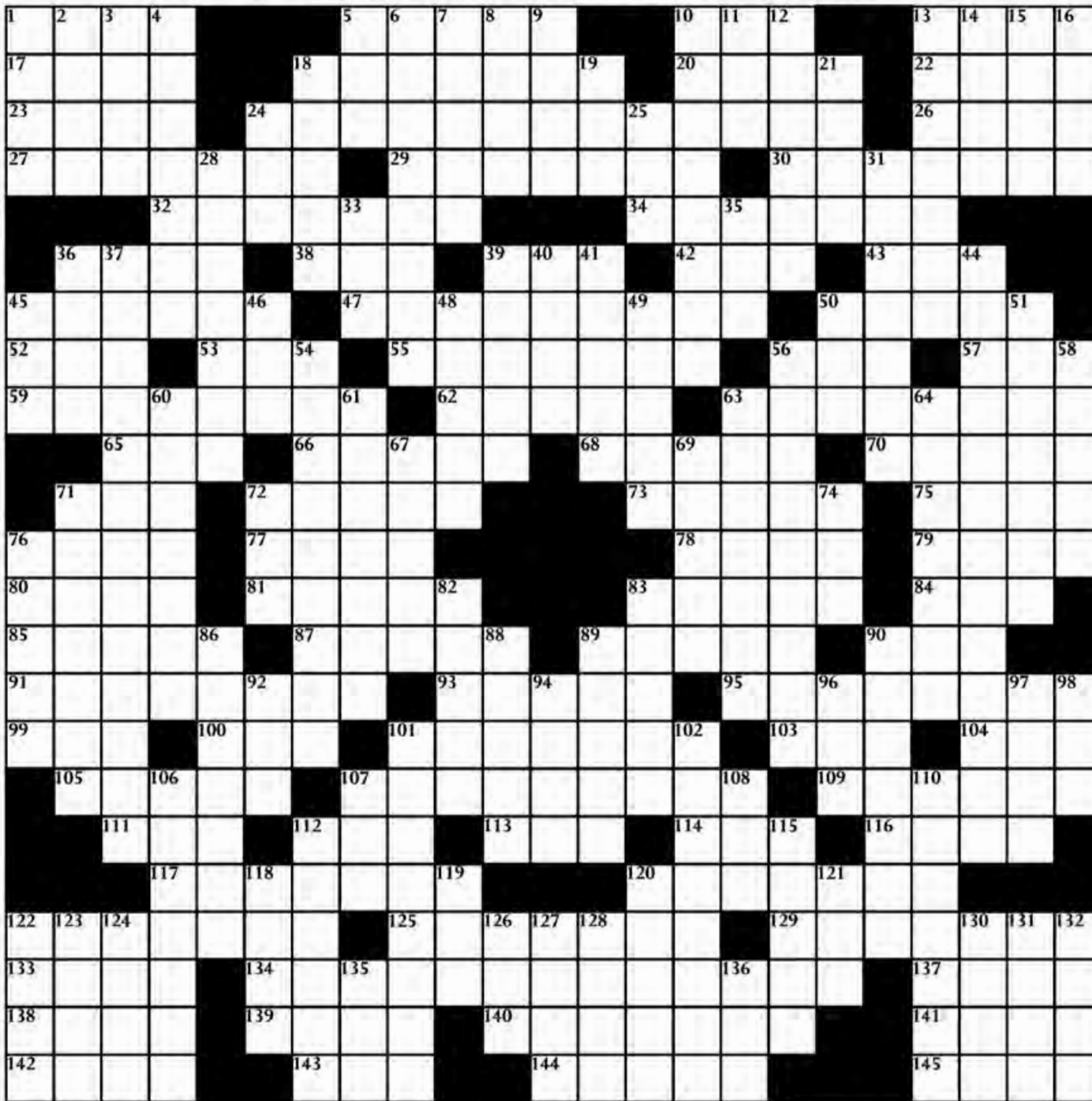



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- 75 Thick wheat noodle
- 76 Sen. from CA
- 77 New Looker
- 78 Curb
- 79 Dilute solution; Abbr. (Var.)
- 80 Bio. chains
- 81 Small unit
- 83 Furze
- 84 LPs' shorter cousins
- 85 Brayers
- 87 Absolutely square
- 89 Raptor roost
- 90 Common prefix
- 91 Brought up
- 93 Disturb
- 95 Mindless mimic
- 99 Inappropriate sharing, briefly
- 100 Examine
- 101 College "attende," quadrennially
- 103 Hermana de la madre
- 104 Food fragment
- 105 English county
- 107 Patterned carpet
- 109 Make a charge
- 111 Electrically charged one
- 112 Citrus seed
- 113 Middle Eastern flute
- 114 Follow
- 116 Use non-lethal force
- 117 Cavendishes
- 120 Before
- 122 Guy Montag job
- 125 Reeking
- 129 Sallies
- 133 Febreze's opponent
- 134 Polish literary Nobel, 1980
- 137 Contributes
- 138 Otherwise
- 139 ___ majesté
- 140 Sororal establishment

ACROSS

- 1 Oral tradition
- 5 Completely perplexed
- 10 Nashville award giver since 1967, for short
- 13 Nickerson date
- 17 Egyptian deity
- 18 Blind feelers
- 20 Spread uncontrollably, like fire
- 22 Apiece
- 23 DC NLers
- 24 Star also known as Porrina
- 26 British bomber maker
- 27 Hang up wet
- 29 Curio
- 30 Arena
- 32 Wind-blown
- 34 Celtic May Day
- 36 MM minus MCCL
- 38 Beatles' label
- 39 Film with H, C, and P formats, informally
- 42 Res. hall leaders
- 43 Crucial internet serv.
- 45 Enter
- 47 Geocentric, theoretically
- 50 Data converting device
- 52 Gourmet Garten
- 53 ___ Easley
- 55 Donna sposata
- 56 It may get beaten out of you, with "the"
- 57 Didn't stop
- 59 Blues guitar chord
- 62 Pierce
- 63 Impediments
- 65 Absorb
- 66 Narcotic nut
- 68 Slender boat
- 70 Vex
- 71 Obtained
- 72 Plant support
- 73 Meal with bitter herbs

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 Ref.16837 PRICE: \$4,530 MAZDA TRIBUTE Year 2003 AT 2,260cc PETROL Mileage 91,000km Color Dark Blue	 Ref.16518 PRICE: \$3,680 MITSUBISHI PAJERO IO Year 2000 MT 1,800cc PETROL Mileage 97,000km Color Silver	 Ref.17240 PRICE: \$3,140 HONDA HR-V Year 2000 AT 1,590cc PETROL Mileage 75,000km Color Gray
 Ref.17524 PRICE: \$4,040 BMW 320i M SPORT Year 2000 AT 2,170cc PETROL Mileage 68,000km Color Silver	 Ref.17377 PRICE: \$2,500 NISSAN MARCH Year 2002 AT 1,200cc PETROL Mileage 57,000km Color Yellow	 Ref.17602 PRICE: \$2,800 NISSAN SUNNY Year 2003 AT 1,490cc PETROL Mileage 88,000km Color Silver
 Ref.16910 PRICE: \$3,930 TOYOTA COROLLA Year 2001 AT 1,490cc PETROL Mileage 57,000km Color White	 Ref.17399 PRICE: \$2,950 TOYOTA PLATZ Year 2002 AT 1,200cc PETROL Mileage 67,000km Color Silver	 Ref.17284 PRICE: \$2,280 MAZDA DEMIO Year 2002 AT 1,320cc PETROL Mileage 71,000km Color White

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AUSTRALIA IN MICRONESIA



Ways and Means Committee

meets in Palikir Congress Public Information Office

Palikir, Pohnpei. August 8, 2014 – The Committee on Ways and Means is in Palikir this week for a series of public hearings and oversight on matters still pending before the Committee prior to the upcoming Regular Session of the Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia scheduled for September.

Following Monday morning's Executive Committee meeting, Chairman Isaac V. Figir called in the various departments and agencies of the national government in the afternoon to begin the Committee on Ways and Means series of public hearings to address outstanding issues ranging from climate change legislation and its implementation to tax reform.

Monday afternoon's line-up of issues included:

- the President's recent Report on the Audit of Public Debts for fiscal year 2012;

- the proposed use of the World Bank's 16th International Development Association or IDA-16 Funds, originally slated for the FSM Telecommunications; and

- an overview of the Trust Fund Investments, a review of the Funds' balance, and the new investment advisor. Tuesday's line-up of public hearing included:

- the Climate Change legislation and its implementation and progress to date by all relevant parties;

- the overrun of Public Projects along with the revised format for the Project Control Document(PCD) and its proposed improvements especially in line with Congressional Bill (CB) 18-201 which requires that any revision to

the existing PCDs to comply with the Administrative Procedures Act; and

- a review of the government's current foreign assistance procedures, along with an update on the status of US Federal Programs and Assistance. On Wednesday, the Committee focused mainly on the issue of tax in the following areas:

- CB 18-21, the distribution of tax revenue in the state sub-accounts and any implementation concerns

- CB 18-22, the proposed qualified exemption from the Gross Revenue Tax;

- CB 18-165, the taxation of foreign corporation branch offices in the FSM and its effect on the current tax scheme; and

- finally the Committee concluded its discussions with the issue of tax reform, its collection and its enforcement.

The issue of taxation and its implementation concluded the series of public hearings the Committee on Ways and Means held in Palikir with representative from the Office of the President, Secretary of the Dept. Finance and Administration and relevant staff, Secretary of Dept. of Foreign Affairs and relevant staff, representatives from the Dept. of Justice and from the Office of SBOC (Statistics, Economic and Budget Management, Overseas Development Assistance and Compact Management).

Along with Chairman Figir, member of the Committee on Ways and Means included: Senator Yosiwo P. George, Senator Tony H. Otto and Senator Joseph J. Urusemal along with staff attorneys Yancy Cottrill, Catherine Allen, Alik Jackson and John Nowakowski.

Increasing local food plants in Sapwohn

By **Rainer Jimmy**

Executive Director Island Food Community of Pohnpei

The Pacific Development and Conservation Trust funded project that Kousapw Sapwohn is implementing under the auspices of the Island Food Community of Pohnpei has completed three rounds of collection and distribution of planting materials. Planting materials for the first and third rounds were contributed by the people of Kousapw Sapwohn. The second contribution was provided by the Division of Agriculture.

In its first acceptance and planning meeting with Island Food Community of Pohnpei staff, the community agreed to focus their planting efforts on the 15 varieties of yellow flesh banana, Mei in Samoa, Sawahn Mwahng, Macau banana and coconut tree. Based on available data, there are 72 land parcels in Kousapw Sapwohn. The main reason for selecting the 15 varieties of yellow flesh banana is the availability of rich vitamins and carotenoid helping to protect against diseases. This is also in line with the Governor's NCD mandate in that eating yellow flesh banana will and can help prevent non-communicable diseases (NCD).

DISTRIBUTED ITEMS BASED ON COMMUNITY NEEDS

							TOTAL COLLECTED	STILL NEEDED
	3/28		4/28		5/16			
	C	D	C	D	C	D		
1. AKADAHN WEITAHTA	26	26	20	20	2	2	48	27
2. AKADAHN GREEN	6	6	0	0	0	0	5	70
3. KUDUD (UHT RAIS)	11	11	0	0	1	1	12	63
4. UTIN KERENIS	3	3	0	0	0	0	3	72
5. KARAT	23	23	0	0	4	4	27	48
6. TAIWANG	34	34	0	0	0	0	34	41
7. IEHMWAHN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	75
8. IHPALI	0	0	6	6	0	0	6	69
9. KARAT EN IAP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	75
10. MANGAT EN ALOHKAPW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	75
11. PELEU	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	75
12. UTIAK IN POHNPEI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	75
13. MANGAT IN ANGAUR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	75
14. MANGAT EN SEIPAN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	75
15. MANGAT IN KINGIT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	75
16. MANGAT IN KARIKI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	75
17. MANGAT EN POHNPEI	0	0	7	7	0	0	7	68
MEI IN SAMOA	4	4	2	2	0	0	6	59
SAWAHN MWAHNG	0	0	10	10	10	10	20	55
NIH	18	18	25	25	1	1	44	31
KIPAR	10	10	10	10	0	0	20	55

With guidance from the Project Advisor, Sr. Pastor WP Engly Ioanis, Mei in Samoa, sawahn mwahng and coconut were included because they are reliable sources for food security. IFCP staff recommended inclusion of pandanus because it is yellow flesh and can also serve as a wind breaker and prevent erosion.

The idea of having 75 as the target is to have all land parcels plant one item from each of the selected items. After the project is finished, the community members who collected planting materials can then share what they have planted with others. Then the community will be able to sustain the project long into the future.



Collecting and distributing local food plants in Sapwohn

Culturally significant food crop in Pingelap – giant swamp taro

By **Rainer Jimmy**

Giant swamp taro has a culturally significant role in Pingelapese culture, for the following reasons:

1. It is the main local food crop that sustained the people on a daily basis
2. It is used during Christmas. Wesik in Soulap. The husband's family will pull up taro, grate them, add coconut juice and ripe banana (preferably Taiwang) and wrap the mixture in banana or taro leaves. This is then cooked in a locally prepared uhmw, which is a pile of rocks heated on firewood until the rocks are hot. The rocks are spread evenly with the prepared mixture placed on the rocks and covered with leaves from breadfruit, banana and taro. It takes 12 to 20 hours to cook the traditional dish. When the mixture is properly cooked, the husband's family will take these to the in-laws with other local food crops and sometimes a pig or fish.

3. IRIHRIPWO: This is a traditional event that takes place when a Nanmwarki (King) is ill or accidentally falls down. A special rack where the collected taro will be showcased on the prepared rack. All taro will be lined up vertically against the rack starting with the biggest to the smallest. This event is called KOUSUHKE.

4. FUNERAL: Taro is also used by people to help their families and relatives during funerals. The more taro a family uses during a funeral, the more dignity the family will gain from the community.

Island Food Community is seeking a volunteer interested in learning about local food culture by reviewing and editing past media articles for replication in the future. The work can be done from home.

Email April Turner at communitydevelopment@islandfood.org for more information!

Letter to the Editor

Dear Mr. Grant Wieman,

I wish to respond to your recent article containing your impressions of Pohnpei gained during the short period of time during which you were covering the 8th Micronesia Games. I regret that your visit was not a pleasant one as your article makes apparent.

I think we should stop comparing the Federated States of Micronesia—and in the case of your articles, our beautiful home island of Pohnpei—to Guam or any other US Territory or possession.

If your published comments came from someone from the Commonwealth of Palau, Marshalls or from CNMI I would have been very surprised, sad, and disappointed. Since you live in Guam as represented by the fact that you represent the Pacific Daily News, I can't say that I was surprised that you cast our home islands in such a disparaging way in your final article on the games (www.guampdn.com/article/20140810/SPORTS/308100025/Games-Pohnpei-left-lasting-impressions). You'd already shown your stripes in the first article you wrote and that PDN printed after you arrived in Pohnpei on a charter flight (www.guampdn.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2014307210025). Still, I can say that I am sad and disappointed

I think that if you'd come to Pohnpei with an open mind about what you would experience you would have had something positive about which

to write. Instead, you came on paid assignment and ended up practically trashing our beautiful island, culture, tradition, landmarks, scenery, landscape, and as you called it in your first article, "wildlife".

Yes, we are very fortunate, because we still practice our local culture and tradition as evidenced by the sakau ceremony you pictured at the top of your article.

I wonder if you had a chance to interview the locals in order to get their perspective on the issues you wrote about. I also wonder if you took the chance to interview a person who is not from Pohnpei but who now lives in, and considers Pohnpei their home away from home.

While you are certainly entitled to your opinion, I think the key here is perspective and just a bit of open mindedness.

Finally, and for the record, Mr. Jim Tobin, as much as I respect and admire the man, was not the only person who made the 8th Micronesia Games a successful event. There were countless individuals, officials, organizations, businesses and others who sacrificed their time, resources and energy to make the event a successful one in our eyes, and in the eyes of many others.

Kalahngan Jr. Hadley

Outer island science teachers battle climate change

International Organization for Migration

Majuro - Responding to requests from FSM educators, and in coordination with The International Organization for Migration (IOM) Australian-funded Climate Adaptation, Disaster Risk Reduction, and Education (CADRE) team and Pacific Resources for Education and Learning (PREL), the Ministry of Education (MOE) convened a special training for over 50 science teachers from July 7th to July 11th on topics related to climate change and disaster risk reduction.

Topics covered included alignment of RMI national standards and benchmarks for climate change education, and the relationship between low island eco-systems, mangroves, and climate.

Each participant received the full set of IOM CADRE materials which includes: classroom posters, video clips, answer keys, student work book, teacher workbook, and other media for the classroom. Some lucky teachers even won a glow in the dark Earth ball. In the evaluation form following the training 96% of the educators participating strongly agreed that the lessons and training are useful to them

in their work. One participant shared, "There are things that I never understood about climate change, but now I understand."

Following the week long training, science teachers were invited to apply their new knowledge with students in a science summer camp at Delap Elementary School. RMI teacher Derrick DeBrum demonstrated some of the techniques from the training when guiding the campers in creating a weather concept map.

The IOM CADRE team has been visiting 9th grade classrooms in the RMI since 2012 including public and private secondary schools in Majuro, Ebeye, Jaluit and Wotje. Over 3,000 students in the FSM and RMI have completed the curriculum. Over 300 educators have participated in IOM teacher training across the FSM and RMI.



FSM Supreme Court makes timeline goals to ensure timeliness

On July 10, Chief Justice of the FSM Supreme Court, Hon. Martin G. Yinug, promulgated time line standards (Goal) for the FSM Supreme Court. The implementation of the time-line standards is an initiation made in compliance with the FSM Supreme Court 5 year strategic plan which went into effect in July 12, 2012. The signed time-line standard became effective on July 12, 2014. In his announcement letter of July 10, 2014 Hon. Yinug stated "It is the obligation of the Supreme Court of the FSM to conduct a fair trial in a reasonable time. For this right to be effective for the benefit of citizens and business, our Judiciary must have transparent methods to control case flow to prevent delay."

The adoption of the timeline standard is a method in which the court is taking to ensure that cases are disposed in a reasonable time period. The timeline goals will be in effect from July 12, 2014 to July 12, 2015 in order to test its appropriateness and allow time for feedback. The following are the time goals approved for cases, pending motions, and etc.

- a) Civil Case Disposition: 21 months
- b) Criminal Case Disposition: 9 months
- c) Appeal Case Disposition: 15 months
- d) Pending motions: 6 months
- e) Matters taken under advisement: 4 months

For a copy of the timeline goal please visit the FSM Supreme court website at www.fsmsupremecourt.org

or direct link at

http://www.fsmsupremecourt.org/WebSite/fsm/rules/gco/time_standard.pdf

LYON presents

