

The KASELEHLIE PRESS

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College of Micronesia campuses in Pohnpei hold commencement exercises

College of Micronesia FSM

May 22, 2013

Pohnpei, FSM—The College of Micronesia FSM National and Pohnpei campuses celebrated their 57th commencement activities at the COM China Friendship Gym at the National campus today. The COM press release said that over 500 people were in attendance at the graduation.

"For our students it is a time to recognize and celebrate their academic accomplishments. For the parents and families of our students, commencement provides yet another point of pride. For all of us and for our faculty, most especially, commencement is an opportunity to acknowledge our work and success in educating the young men and women who represent the future hopes, dreams and aspirations of the FSM." College President & CEO Joseph M. Daisy, Ed.D. said during his welcoming remarks. Professor Susan Moses gave the commencement address. She spoke about a survey she gave to the graduating students asking for an evaluation of the quality of education they had received while at COM. She challenged the College Community to *"Improve the level of education and instruction that we provide so that all of the future graduates will mark Good or maybe we should include Excellent on the next survey and strive to achieve 100% Excellent marks."*



New graduates flip the tassel from right to left after graduation ceremony

See "Commencement" on page 5

Blood Donation Myths and Facts

Myth: FSM hospitals do not have blood banks

Fact: All FSM hospitals have certified blood bank refrigerators with capacity to store around 50 units of blood for 5 weeks



Give Blood, Give Life

Make an appointment with your local hospital laboratory today, or register to become a volunteer blood donor with MRCS



Pohnpei swim club first public performance



See story on page 12

“All good things come to an end”

By Daniel DiDonna

The Deaf WorldTeach Program is now coming to an end for Spring 2013. The volunteers are just finishing up their five-month stint in Chuuk. The past few months were chock-full of memories that everyone will cherish forever. This was the type of experience everyone grew from, personally and collectively!

Slowly, but surely, the program came together since the opening ceremony celebrating the inception of the Chuuk Deaf Center. The number of registered students rose steadily bringing more diversity in age, knowledge, and skill to the classroom. Also, the classroom itself was transformed as students brought it to life.

The success of the program itself is largely owed to the support of the Deaf students, parents, special education teachers and administration, Ansina Kony, and Paul Hadik. The amount of support that was received from each level was overwhelming and impressive.

The parents really value their children's education, making a huge effort to communicate through visual means, sign language, and continue to educate their kids outside of the classroom environment at home. This is an important aspect to a child's successful education, having supportive parents in and out of school, and constantly exposing their children to language and the world that surrounds them. Some of our students' parents barely uttered one word, instead using their hands to create gestures to share information! These parents should take pride in their love and commitment to their children that will ensure the students grow into bright and skilled individuals.

The special education teachers were quite a committed staff. They showed up to school everyday, even some days

were barricaded by inclement weather, and they still showed up. They made a huge effort in educating the students, helping them learn social cues and behaviors, how to respect each other, and pushing for a collective identity as Deaf people. Gloria Ikea, whom co-taught with the Deaf WorldTeach volunteers, was such a success, proving that Chuuk is developing a local capacity of qualified Deaf Education instructors. Followed by the other special education teachers: Jiweina Elimo, Inca Shotato, Jafflyn Poll, and Rose Elies who gave endless support for the program. The program would not be in place if not for Iras Demo Elementary School supporting the education of Deaf students.

Last, but most important, the students! The center of the universe in the classroom. The students constantly surprised us with what they already knew. Their ability to transform their self-expression means through language and expanding the language into very creative outlets, applications to the world, they really transformed themselves. They grew, learned and changed together with support and self-initiative fires longing for more. We simply helped them dig within themselves, finding the seeds and allowing it to blossom. The seeds were there all along. They just had to realize and find it, that we helped with, and the rest was up to them.

This truly was a collaborative effort from all levels in the community and education system. This shows how successful a program can be when people work hard; contribute their time to something worthwhile, and for the future of the Chuukese deaf community. Daniel and Emma will miss everyone dearly, a piece of their hearts will always remain in Chuuk. Kinisou to each person who contributed to this awesome project!

FSM, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Navy, and commercial vessel partner to rescue five in distress

Office of Public Affairs
U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam

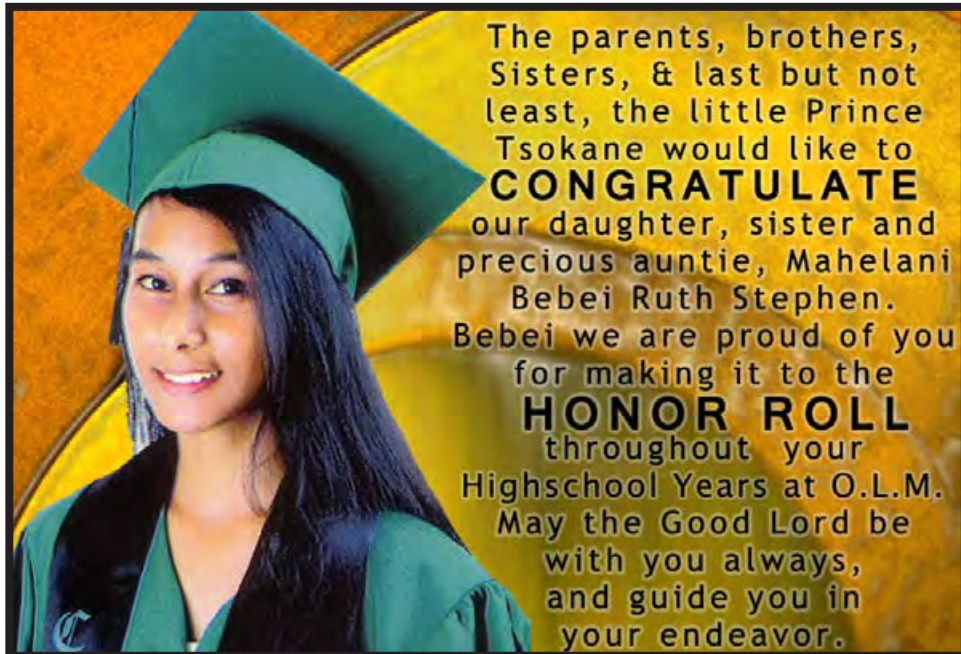
PACIFIC OCEAN— The U.S. Coast Guard in coordination with the U.S. Navy and the Motor Vessel Zeus Leader partnered to provide assistance to the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) National Police, rescuing five mariners from the Pacific Ocean, 110 nautical miles west of Chuuk Islands.

The mariners in distress originated their voyage on a 19 foot fiberglass skiff travelling from Nomosich, a small island west of Murilo Atoll, to Weno, Chuuk. Using a High Frequency radio, family members of the overdue mariners contacted the University of Guam Pan-Pacific Education and Communication Experiments by Satellite (PEACESAT) on Friday May 24, 2013 and indicated that the vessel had departed Nomosich at 4:00 pm Chamorro Standard Time (ChST) on May19, 2013 and were expected to arrive in Chuuk by sunset on the same day. PEACESAT notified the Coast Guard which diligently contacted FSM Authorities for more information. The FSM Agencies in accordance with their National Search and Rescue Plan, requested assistance

from the U.S. Coast Guard in accordance with a long- standing Memorandum of Understanding under the Compact of Free Association.

The Coast Guard Rescue Coordination Sub-Center Guam requested long range aircraft support from the U.S. Navy's Fleet Logistic Support Squadron VR62, located in Jacksonville, Florida. The Coast Guard also identified and contacted a commercial cargo vessel, the Japanese flagged vessel ZEUS LEADER, who was transiting in the vicinity of the distress location, and requested their assistance. The vessel diverted from their course and maneuvered towards the distress position.

The crew of the U.S. Navy aircraft spotted the overdue skiff at 11:36 am ChST and vectored the ZEUS LEADER toward their location. The ZEUS LEADER then began the process of recovering all of the crew members. To conclude this successful search and rescue mission, the FEDERATED STATES SHIP PALIKIR will be meeting the commercial vessel at a predetermined location southwest of Pohnpei and will be transporting the rescued mariners to Chuuk.



The parents, brothers, Sisters, & last but not least, the little Prince Tsokane would like to **CONGRATULATE** our daughter, sister and precious auntie, Mahelani Bebei Ruth Stephen. Bebei we are proud of you for making it to the **HONOR ROLL** throughout your Highschool Years at O.L.M. May the Good Lord be with you always, and guide you in your endeavor.

The **Kaselehlie Press**

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Bill Jaynes
 Managing Editor

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JICA supports RMI drought relief efforts

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

On Friday, May 17, the Government of Japan decided to extend emergency relief goods worth eight million yen (water and food) to RMI, through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in response to the request from RMI Government following serious damage from the drought.



In the northern atolls/islands of RMI, there has been almost no rain since the beginning of this year and consequently a shortage of potable water and daily life water, serious damages to crops, or water-borne diseases has occurred. April 19, RMI Government declared the state of emergency and May 8, it has elevated its status to State of Disaster due to the escalation of the severe drought condition. According to United Nations Office of Coordination for Humanitarian Assistance (UNOCHA) as of May 1, the number of residents in the disaster areas is about three thousand and two hundred, and according to US Agency for International Development (USAid), about five thousand people suffer from the disaster if includes moderate damages.

view for the victims as well as in light of friendly relations between Japan and Marshall Islands.

In response to the request from RMI Government, the Government of Japan has decided to provide emergency assistance from a humanitarian point of

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Yap Legislature calls for cancellation of ETG Foreign Investment Permit



Speaker Henry Falan

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

May 27, 2013

Yap, FSM—Early this month the Yap State Legislature passed a resolution instructing the Yap State Foreign Investment Board to cancel the Foreign Investment Permit (FIP) it issued to the Exhibition and Travel Group (ETG). At press time there had been no announced response to the resolution which, if it is put into force, will essentially shut down ETG's efforts to build a massive tourism project in Yap.

The resolution was signed by Speaker Henry Falan on May 2, 2013.

It calls for the cancellation of the FIP because it says that the Director of the Department of Resources and Development "violated the State Government Ethics Act and is therefore not valid to allow ETG to engage in business in the State of Yap."

The resolution quotes the laws regarding which government employees are subject to the Government Ethic Acts. It also quotes the section of the act that allows the State to void any action taken by a State employee that violates the Act, as well as its ability to hold the employee personally liable for any damages, costs, and other consequences that the State incurs as a result of voiding the employee's unethical actions.

It accuses the R&D Director of providing preferential treatment to ETG when his department granted ETG a permit. An employee is not allowed by law to grant preferential treatment to any organization or person. As evidence of its accusation, the resolution says that the Director granted the permit despite overwhelming public opposition including the adoption of resolutions by the Legislature against ETG's proposal. It accuses the Director of granting the permit even though ETG proposed to engage in illegal activities in the State of Yap, such as gambling, a proposal that was presented in the investment agreement proposal to the Governor prior to the issuance of the permit.

On the Act's prohibitions on actions that impede government efficiency or economy, the Legislature had much to say in terms of evidence to support its claim that the Director of R&D violated the act.

"The Director's instructions to his staff not to release information on the status of the ETG application for a Yap State Foreign Investment permit," was one of the evidences provided.

"The Director's total disregard of the overwhelming public opposition including a petition signed by more than 1500 people and residents of Yap State against the ETG proposal," was another.

"The Director's complete disregard of Resolutions adopted by the Legislature against the ETG proposal," was another.

It cited ETG's "gaming and casinos" proposal, an illegal activity, as another violation of acts that impeded government efficiency or economy.

"The Director's preferential treatment for the ETG application for a Permit resulted in the Legislature being kept in the dark while the Governor and the Council of Pilung continued to negotiate with ETG," was the Legislature last example.

"Such actions adversely affect government efficiency by causing uncertainty and confusion amongst relevant government agencies, undermining continued cooperation and unity in the State Leadership, and preventing a more efficient and a more orderly review of the documents and investment proposal by ETG by the entire Yap State Government exclusive of the Judiciary Branch, and the public," it said.

The resolution says that when the Director of R&D issued the permit to ETG it violated a provision of the Ethics Act on "adversely affecting the confidence of the public in the integrity of the government." The Yap Legislature provided similar evidence for its claims that the Director of R&D violated that legal requirement of the Ethics Act.

The resolution included an additional chronological list of evidence to support its instruction for the Director or R&D to cancel the ETG application for a Foreign Investment Permit:

May 3, 2012—The State leadership received a petition with an additional 172 signatures that were against the ETG proposal.

May 21, 2012—A meeting designated as a Town Hall meeting was held at the Colonia Community Center purportedly to educate the public about the ETG proposed project. It was limited to only two hours. During the meeting the Acting Attorney General told the people, in the presence of the R&D Director that the ETG permit had not been delivered to ETG "when in fact ETG had received the Permit April 26, 2012 as noted and initialed by ETG agent on the Permit." The resolution said that at the end of the meeting, there were questions that those in attendance still wanted to ask.

July 31, 2012—The Yap Women's Association forwarded a petition to the State by the "Bwin nu Waab" from the municipalities of Yap stating their strong opposition to the ETG proposal.

August 9, 2012—"More people of Yap petitioned the State Leadership, 'NOT to permit the Exhibition and Travel Group (ETG) to invest in the whole State of Yap.'"

September 18, 2012—Yap State Resolution No. 8-53 was adopted "calling on the Governor to submit a written notice to ETG to void the Investment Agreement between the State and ETG and to disapprove any and all master plans from ETG for investment in Yap State."

October 1, 2012—Governor Anefal wrote to the Chairman of ETG suggesting that the chairman should "reconsider the proposed project, if not to dissolve the Investment Agreement and any legal documents preceding it." The Governor made reference to the letter of the Dalip Pi Nguchol that commanded the administration to "prohibit [ETG] from proceeding with its intended project for Yap State." The Governor also referred to resolution 8-53 requesting him to void the investment agreement.

"It is my belief that the attached letter and resolution, together with other attachments herewith, are indicative of a resistance to your proposed project in the State, and I feel that it is my responsibility to approach your organization before you risk any greater financial investment going forward. I fear that the prospects of ETG crafting a profit-

making enterprise in Yap may be very low. It seems that ETG, if it decides to go forward with the project, will encounter a huge amount of resistance from the public and by way of laws passed by the Legislature which will all but ensure that ETG cannot do business in the State of Yap," Governor Anefal wrote.

November 27, 2012—A group calling themselves the Yap Awareness Project (Y.A.P.) sent a petition that included 1000 signatures to Speaker Falan. It strongly opposed the ETG project.

February 5, 2013—In response to the Y.A.P. petition, the whole membership of the Yap State Leadership met with the group. During that meeting the legislature told the Y.A.P. membership that it had passed Y.S.L. Resolution 8-53 in order to support the Governor's October 1, 2012 letter to ETG. The understanding that the legislature came to with Y.A.P. was that the State leaders should stand in a "united front," apparently against the ETG proposal.

March 21, 2013—YSL (Yap State Legislature) met with the Governor to decide on the "best way forward". The resolution says that the Governor agreed that he should have the ETG permit voided, and that the Governor should get back to the Legislature by April 16, 2013. At that time Governor Anefal was off island on a medical purpose and the agreed upon meeting did not take place.

The resolution asserts that Yang Gang, the ETG agent in Yap, gave the Chief of Rumung on the Council of Pilung \$3000. It asserts that the money may have been considered to have been a bribe which would be considered to be a State crime if the money was received "as consideration to influence his decision to assist ETG by influencing the people of Yap to lease their lands to ETG."

As a final argument, the YSL resolution points out that Mr. Deng Hong, Chairman and President of ETG has been in the world news as being under investigation by the government of China for graft (bribery) and other allegations.

Again, at press time there had been no action on the resolution of which the KPress was aware.



Mr. Deng Hong, Chairman and President of ETG

The Kaselehlie Press

So engaging...



...You might just forget to put your feet on the ground!

...Commencement

Continued from front page

The top two Academic Honors were given to Damien Mailbung as the Valedictorian and SepeSerlyann Isaac as the Salutatorian.

Fulltime students on the honor roll list who took only college-level courses, and who have achieved a semester grade point average of 4.00 were Emylou Leigh Fredrick, Rockyner Hadley, Gayle Marie Hallers, Galliard James,

Raynard Kerman, Damien Mailbung, Rose Ann Pama, IumileenSaimon, and MarlynViti.

Fulltime students on the honor roll list who took only college-level courses, and who have achieved a semester grade point average of 3.50 to 3.99 were Aron Deffeny, Tracy David, Beverlyn Etse, Merlihse Keiorihner Esiel, Petrina Hasugulmal, Sepe Serlyann Isaac, Cherryll Ligoehr, Roxann Moya, Jessica Nanpei, Kenneth K. Nerro, Tyson Otto, Lorry Ann Rudolph, Char Marie S. Rufes, Kieko Kenye Sabino, and Angelica

Seiola.

According to information from the Admissions Records & Retention Office, 176 students graduated from the college's national and state campuses during spring 2013: 21 from Chuuk Campus; 7 from Kosrae Campus; 113 from National Campus; 35 from Pohnpei Campus and 30 from Yap Campus. 10 students graduated under the UOG and the COM-FSM baccalaureate partnership program in elementary education.



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Friends of COM-FSM Foundation board introduced to the college community by Board of Regents

College of Micronesia

Kolonia, Pohnpei – Board of Regents (BOR) Chairman Kasio Mida introduced the 5 board members of Friends of COM-FSM Foundation to the National Campus Community on May 8, 2013. The new board was introduced during the all campus meeting at the Media Information & Technology Center (MITC) Room where it was witnessed by close to 150 members of the college community.

Floyd Takeuchi (President) has worked in the Micronesian region for 36 years, mostly as a journalist but also in recent years on consultancies with the College of Micronesia-FSM and Palau Community College. He also served for seven years as a Commissioner of the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges and was vice-chair when he stepped down to concentrate on his current publishing enterprise. Takeuchi was born and raised in the Marshall Islands, and his family lived on Saipan for nearly 30 years.

Jerry Kramer (Vice President) is the Founder, Chairman and CEO of Pacific International, Inc. (PII), a multi-disciplinary, family-owned construction company based in the Marshall Islands, but active throughout the Micronesian region. He is also a major regional investor in real estate, business enterprises, tourism and many other ventures. Kramer has been active in support of educational initiatives, such as the highly regarded Co-op School in Majuro. He is active in a wide range of regional community organizations, and is the recipient of the highest honor that can be bestowed by the Aloha Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

Francis X. Hezel, SJ (Vice President) has served as a Roman Catholic priest in what is now the Federated States of Micronesia for 50 years. He first came to the islands to teach at Xavier High School in Chuuk, eventually became its director, and then founded the Micronesian Seminar, a major regional research center, which he ran for many years as director. Hezel is the author of many books on history, culture and social change in the Pacific, with a particular emphasis on the Micronesian region.

Foundation Board President Floyd Takeuchi addresses the National Campus community during the all campus meeting.



Gerard "Jerry" Finin, PhD. (Secretary) is a resident co-director of East-West Center's Pacific Islands Development Program. He conducts research on contemporary social and economic issues in the Pacific Islands region, with ongoing projects focusing on governance and globalization. Finin is also engaged in research and teaching related to the Philippines, particularly northern Luzon. His areas of interest include public policy, social change, development and urbanization. Finin received his PhD in urban and regional planning and Southeast Asian Studies from Cornell University.

Mark Heath (Treasurer) is the treasurer of Micronesian Registration Advisors, Inc., the official and exclusive corporate registry for the Federated States of Micronesia, which focuses on registering firms and subsidiaries based in Japan. A resident of Guam for 31 years, Heath is a CPA and an experienced auditor who served for many years as the Chief Financial Officer of the University of Guam. During his tenure, UOG had its first clean audit and maintained that record ever since. He has also served as Trustee of the Government of Guam Employees' Retirement Fund Board, and has significant fund-management experience.

The purpose of the Friends of COM-FSM Board is to raise money for the college's Endowment Fund.

During their two-day visit to the college, the Foundation Board were able to visit the National Campus where they toured residential halls and met with students. The board was also able to visit some of the programs at Pohnpei Campus where they witnessed actual displays and demonstrations from Agriculture and Food Technology, Building Technology, Carpentry and Cabinet/Furniture Making, Construction Electricity, Electronic Engineering Technology, Hospitality and Tourism Management, Motor Vehicle Mechanics, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning, and Telecommunication Technology.

COM-FSM President Joseph M. Daisy, Ed.D., Board of Regents Chairman Kasio Mida with Regents Churchill Edward and Graceful Enlet hosted a dinner reception at President Daisy's residence for the foundation board on behalf of COM-FSM in appreciation for



From Top: Jerry Finin, COM-FSM President Joseph M. Daisy, Ed.D., BOR Member Graceful Enlet, BOR Chairman Kasio Mida, BOR Member Churchill Edward. Bottom: Jerry Kramer, Floyd Takeuchi, Mark Heath, and Father Francis Hezel.

their time and effort.

Dignitaries and members of the Diplomatic Corp that attended the reception dinner were Her Excellency, Doria Rosen, Ambassador of United States in the FSM; His Excellency, Zhang Lianyun, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China in the FSM; His Excellency, Eiichi Suzuki, Ambassador of Japan in the FSM; Michael Kulesa, First Secretary & Counsel at the Australian Embassy in the FSM; Mr. & Mrs. Miguel Ordoñez, Charge de affaires ad interim at the US Embassy in the FSM; Dr. Rufino Mauricio, FSM Secretary of Education; Ginger Mida, Post Master General; and Loren & Erika Peterson.

On behalf of the entire College, President Daisy gave a heart felt thank you to all the guests and to the Foundation Board for agreeing to serve as Directors of the Foundation.

Congress passes supplemental budget for Tax Reform and other FY13 requests

Congress News

May 27, 2013

PALIKIR, POHNPEI - On May 23, 2013, the 18th Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia on the 13th day of its First Regular Session passed Congressional Bill 18-07 D1 approving a supplemental budget request of \$707,338 for fiscal year 2013. Of the total appropriation, \$72,000 of this supplemental budget appropriation goes toward the FSM Tax Reform initiative which now stands at a crossroad.

In recommending full funding on the Tax Reform supplemental request, the Committee on Ways and Means emphasized in its Standing Committee Report to Speaker Halbert that outside donors contributing to the Tax Reform efforts should be made aware that the legislation has not been fully enacted and the outcome of the Tax Reform is still "uncertain". The Committee further added that it will not recommend funding for the Tax Reform project for fiscal year 2014 if "no further progress" has been made by the end of July 2013. These Committee discussions on the Tax Reform are in accordance with past congressional actions relating to the Tax Reform initiative.

In May 2012, the 17th FSM Congress

during its First Regular Session passed Congressional Bill 17-15 D1, now Public Law 17-50, establishing the Revenue Administration Act (RAA) of 2012. Section 934 of the RAA of 2012, known also as the Sunset Clause, reads that the RAA will be "null and void" if any of the four FSM States does not pass into law value added tax legislation. The 17th Congress during its Fifth Regular Session passed Congressional Bill 17-176, now Public Law 17-83, amending the deadline of the Sunset Clause from April 19, 2013 to July 19, 2013. To date, not all four FSM States have passed into law its State value added tax legislation.

In addition to the \$72,000 supplemental budget appropriation, Congressional Bill 18-07 D1, which has yet to be signed into law by President Mori, also includes the following approved supplemental budget requests:

1. FSMIS Project: \$253,700
2. SBOC – Contractual Services: \$10,000
3. President's Office – Medical Referral: \$33,355
4. Congress – Session Travel: \$55,000
5. National Department of Education: \$100,891
6. COM-FSM SEG: \$6,602
7. Department of Foreign Affairs: \$176,200

President Mori informs State Governors on 2013 HIES Survey throughout FSM

FSM Information Services

May 29, 2013

The FSM Household Income and Expenditure Survey will be conducted in all the States for a period of one-year, beginning July 11, 2013.

“Unlike the HIES conducted in 2005 where it was carried out over three weeks, this 2013 HIES will be conducted over a period of one year. The main purpose for extending the survey period to one year is to enable capturing of seasonal expenditure. This will provide a more accurate picture of living standard in the FSM”, President Mori states in his May 23 letters to the State Governors.

Apart from revealing income and expenditure distribution, the survey will provide information on home production activities for both goods and services; nutritional and food consumption patterns; up-to-date data for poverty analysis of FSM households; Consumer Price Index (CPI) re-basing to be comparable with other Insular Areas; and progress in other commitments such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

President Mori seeks the support of the Governors in ensuring their people’s cooperation in bringing about a successful survey for everyone’s benefit.

“As authorized under Public Law 5-77, all information collected through the HIES survey will be kept strictly confidential and shall only be used for statistical purposes.”

**Defeat is not the worst of failures.
Not to have tried is the true failure.**
George Edward Woodberry



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We are currently recruiting for the position of Country Manager – North Pacific, based in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). The successful applicant will be offered a 2 year maximum term contract.

Reporting to the Manager Regional Operations (based in Melbourne), this position will manage a small office with responsibility for managing the coordinated delivery of high quality AVI Programs in FSM, the Republic of Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palau.

The successful applicant will have;

- Demonstrated program management experience – with a focus on project/program development and implementation and monitoring as well as security, risk and critical incident management
- Previous volunteer/employee management experience – especially experience dealing with wellbeing support, conflict and sensitive issues
- Exceptional representational, interpersonal and communication skills
- Working knowledge of development issues in the region and well-developed cross cultural awareness
- Strong administrative, financial and problem solving skills – experience managing a small office will be well-regarded

For a full outline of the position and applicant requirements please see the role profile on the AVI website: www.australianvolunteers.com

Application Procedure:

Please submit a completed application form and a current resume Kate Seager C/- hr@australianvolunteers.com. Applications close at midnight AEST Monday 10 June 2013.

-The successful applicant will need to attend training in Melbourne in July/ August, followed by deployment to Pohnpei.

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President's State of the Nation Address

May 29, 2013

Before the 18th Congress of the FSM

Vice President Alik,
Speaker Halbert;
Honorable Members of the 18th FSM Congress;
Traditional Leaders of our Nation
and especially those of our host State of Pohnpei;
The First Lady, Emma Nelson-Mori;
Chief Justice and Associate Justices of the Supreme Court;
Cabinet Members;
Governors, Speakers and Justices of the States;
Dean and Members of the Diplomatic Corps;
National, State, and Municipal Officials;
Heads of National Government-Owned Enterprises;
International Development Partners;
Vicar Julio Angkel,
Members of the Clergy,
Private Sector, and Civil Society;
Families and friends, and my fellow citizens especially
those living abroad and serving in the US Military.

Mr. Speaker, Vice President Alik and I extend our heartfelt congratulations to the Members of the 18th Congress for your reelection and a smooth transition of the new leadership. A special welcome to Senator Victor Gouland - the newest member of Congress.

I am honored once again to appear before you to report on the State of our Nation. I accept this Constitutional duty with honor and humility, knowing full well that the greatest task in our nation-building still lies ahead of us.

Thirty years ago, following the ratification of the Compact of Free Association between the FSM and the United States, our first President, Tosiwo Nakayama, urged this nation to formulate a national foreign investment policy, focusing on developing a private sector-led economy, and also a national transportation policy to enhance mobility and tourism.

Thirty years has been a long time to dream of economic prosperity - a dream that has not yet been realized. The reality of today dictates that we recommit our efforts to fulfill that desire of our people to be economically self-reliant.

Now, more than ever, our Nation's efforts should be dedicated to pursuing this elusive goal of economic prosperity that our people rightfully deserve.

PART 1: WHERE WE WERE

Six years ago, I urged all of us to embrace a right mindset as citizens of this Nation. Instead of holding unrealistically high expectations on what our governments could do for us, I asked each of us to focus on what we collectively can do as citizens, committed to serving one another. This concept was, and is symbolized by, the Micronesian unity enshrined in the FSM Constitution ... making "one nation of many islands," enriched by our differences, and forged by the diversity of our cultures.

My administration is steadfast in our commitment to our Micronesian Unity as the guiding principle in the implementation of laws, and the delivery of public services to our people.

We have collectively made progress in achieving national government initiatives, among them, the establishment of the FSM Petroleum Corporation; the FSM Trust Fund; the Captive Insurance program, financial intervention to the Social Security System and to the MiCare Health Insurance Program, and the on-going public sector reforms. Having said that, I encourage the States of Chuuk and Kosrae to continue implement their reform measures that will improve their financial conditions.

PART 2: ACCOMPLISHMENTS - WHERE WE ARE TODAY

Mr. Speaker, while there are still challenges we have yet to address, we have realized shared accomplishments through sheer determination and initiatives. Allow me to highlight some of these accomplishments.

College of Micronesia – FSM

I am pleased to note that the College of Micronesia - FSM (COM-FSM) is on the path towards regaining its accreditation status based on the College's continuous quality improvement. In fact, the College was recently cited as an "exemplar" of best practices for Student Learning Outcomes.

Additionally, the College was recognized for its work to translate accreditation training power point slides into the Pohnpeian language to ensure that College employees with limited English language proficiency could also participate.

I urge Congress to continue its financial support to the College in its efforts to regain full accreditation and its objectives to become a model of best practices in higher education. I am also pleased to note that within the past year, an Education Facilities Master Plan was completed for the Chuuk School System with similar plans currently underway for the Pohnpei and Yap School Systems. These plans will lead to the identification of further priority education infrastructure projects. Most importantly, they will improve the learning ability of our students.

Foreign Investment & Private Sector Development

Mr. Speaker, the outcome of the recent Symposium on Investment Facilitation underscores the need for the State and National Governments to redesign our policies that will improve the investment climate in this country. Private sector development will continue to be a challenge if our policies on investment are not improved.

I will be submitting to Congress the necessary legislation to improve the existing regulatory and legal framework on foreign investments.

Infrastructure

Since 2004, more than \$160 million worth of projects have been approved; over \$30 million remain for proposed projects. In the past two years, we have implemented projects worth over \$30 million under the Compact infrastructure sector grant.

From the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) airport improvement project funds, we have expended \$170 million to upgrade and construct new airport facilities.

I thank Congress for the recent appropriation of \$3.4 million to match the FAA Airport Improvement Project funds and the \$1 million for outer island airport improvement projects. Recently, the required documents for the purchase of Y -12 aircraft have been submitted to the Government of the People's Republic of China for its consideration. My administration is committed to expediting the implementation of our infrastructure projects.

Captive Insurance Program

The captive insurance program has continued to contribute to our efforts to diversify local revenue sources. Last



year corporations registered in the program paid income tax. This corporate income revenue will continue to grow and, based on collection to date, it is anticipated that it will further increase this year.

I commend Congress for its diligent actions in enacting the enabling legislation and its participation in promoting this program.

Maritime Security

We have one of the biggest exclusive economic zones in the Pacific. To protect these waters and to ensure sustainability of our fishery resources, we have intensified our maritime law enforcement operations in order to ensure compliance with all applicable maritime laws. Our Nation is recognized for its role in leading the Pacific nations in enforcement activities. This achievement is in large part due to the support we receive from Australia through its Patrol Boat Program, from the United States through the Ship Rider Agreement, and additional assistance from other Development Partners.

Transportation

The Airline Task Force created pursuant to a presidential order is a Joint cooperative committee consisting of executive departments, members of Congress, and representatives from the Private Sector. Its primary objectives are to explore complementary air services for the benefit of our citizens and travelling public and to contribute to the development of our tourism industry. The Task Force submitted its report and I will be sharing it with Congress. I am pleased to acknowledge that the second round of assessments required for the new passenger/ cargo vessel was held in Pohnpei early this year. Additionally, there are ongoing consultations among the FSM, Japan, and the ADB regarding port development projects in Pohnpei.

Tuna Commercial Fisheries Development Fishery Revenue

The FSM and other Pacific Island Countries are concluding negotiations with the United States to extend the Multilateral Treaty on Fisheries beyond June 2013. We will stand to gain significantly more

access fees under the new treaty. I urge Congress to promptly ratify the treaty upon its submission for ratification.

Fishery value-added investments

Fisheries is a priority sector in our country. We have the resources, but we also need to improve onshore value-added activities. We are prepared to work with the state governments to invest more on the shore-side facilities. As an example, we have an ongoing joint venture with a Japanese purse seine company.

By executive order, I have established a task force to explore and develop strategies on how to utilize mineral resources from the seabed.

Mr. Speaker, I have highlighted some of our shared accomplishments. Now, let us examine some of the challenges that we have continued to face.

PART 3: OUR CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES Annual Compact Decrement and Long Term Fiscal Framework (LTFF)

Each State completed the exercise of developing a Long Term Fiscal Framework. I commend the Leadership of the four States for their determination and commitment to develop annual Compact decrement management plans. These plans will help the leadership contain the cost of government operations through the elimination of non-essential activities.

There are common components of the LTFF that require further action by the leadership, including full implementation of the FSM-wide Tax Reform for the national government to assist the states as needed.

Health and Education

Mr. Speaker, Health and Education remain as our two top priorities as they are essential to improving the standard of living of our people.

Based on my own recent health ordeal, I urgently call upon all

See "State of the Nation" on next page

...State of the Nation*Continued from previous page*

sectors of government and all of society to collaborate in advocating the use of local food sources, to create friendly physical fitness environment, and to support community-based health system in order to achieve overall wellness of our people. Current and future costs of health care are just too high for our annual budgets. I am prepared therefore to develop or help develop legislations for the five governments to curb the importation of unhealthy food items.

Tax Reform

The tax reforming process has been examined and debated since 2002. We have experienced numerous hurdles during those long eleven years. I thank members of the 17th Congress for extending the Sunset Clause until July 19, 2013.

I urge the remaining states to pass the enabling legislation in order for our governments to begin realizing the benefits of increased revenue flows. Our tax reform provides strong incentives for private sector investment, thereby contributing to private sector-led growth. Additionally, tax reform will modernize our tax system and make it compatible with free trade agreements.

**PART 4: WHERE ARE WE GOING-
"ALL ROADS LEAD TO 2023"**

Mr. Speaker, in 2007, I said that political liberty in and of itself cannot be sustained without real economic development.

For too long our economic aspirations continue to be elusive. The nature of our loose federation has lent itself to significant challenges in the implementation of the nation's development goals because we have too long been developing individual governments and not one nation of many islands. As President Nakayama urged 30 years ago, and I urge us again today to work diligently together to achieve our goals and dream of prosperity and financial security.

2023 Planning Committee

I am pleased to inform you that the Compact Trust Fund's performance has improved in the last two years by over 14%. However, it will continue to fall significantly short of the amount required to provide a smooth transition from sector grants when economic provisions of the Amended Compact expire in 2023.

In view of these challenges, the leadership through a Presidential Order established the 2023 Planning Committee, which has been inaugurated last month to commence its mandate to develop a Comprehensive Action Plan, which will address the fiscal and economic challenges leading up to and beyond 2023.

I do not wish to second-guess the outcome of the 2023 Planning Committee's work, however by taking the worse scenario possible, factoring in the cost of health care alone, we could experience a budget shortfall of up to \$150 million by 2024. It is imperative therefore that we continue our efforts in developing our economy.

FY20 14 Proposed Budget and \$10 Million Set Aside

Beginning with the Proposed Fiscal Years 2014 through 2023 Budgets, a minimum of \$10 million is proposed as a set-aside for the purpose of addressing impacts of the projected shortfall in the Compact Trust Fund. I will be submitting to Congress a proposed legislation to develop the legal framework for the use of these set-aside funds.

The FY20 14 Proposed Budget not only demonstrates that the 2023 Planning Committee will complement the initiatives of the State Governments through their Long Term Fiscal Frameworks, but it also ensures medium and long-term investments that encourage business opportunities and private sector-led growth.

We have a duty to our citizens to ensure the financial security of this nation. It is this type of bold and decisive leadership, along with deliberate and detailed planning that will allow us to maintain an effective government in the post-Compact funding era.

Overseas Development Assistance

Since independence, our nation has been supported by financial assistance through the Compact of Free Association. This has influenced our approach to all Overseas Development Assistance (ODA), and has shaped our own processes for the planning and allocation of resources.

As the conclusion of Compact assistance draws ever closer, we need to prepare for, and embrace, a new era - one in which we build a nation that grows itself. First, we must adjust our current mindset; to move beyond 'Compact assistance' mode. In addition to this, we must ensure that we align all of our ODA with the Strategic Development Plan, which now needs major overhaul to ensure its relevancy.

My administration has been engaged in efforts to reform our approach to ODA. I have therefore submitted an Overseas Development Assistance Policy for consideration by Congress to ensure we align this financial assistance with our national priorities.

The ODA policy is not the solution to these challenges, but it could be one of the first essential steps in promoting economic development. I urge Congress to take favorable action on this ODA Policy.

**PART 5: SOLUTIONS MOVING FORWARD
Constitutional Reform**

Mr. Speaker, in the face of our collective accomplishments, there are major constitutional challenges inherent in our loose federation system of government that we must address.

The Constitution that gives us authority of self-governance and procedures for checks and balances among branches of government is itself susceptible to conflicting legal mandates that many times forestall decisive action.

Our loose federation system of government perpetuates these problems. Therefore, I will be transmitting to Congress a proposed legislation calling for a constitutional convention. In addition, I

will be submitting a proposed legislation to reduce the threshold requirement for a constitutional amendment. Once again, I urge Congress to take favorable action on these two very important pieces of proposed legislations.

Four Sectors: Doing More with What We Have

The Nation's four priority sectors are clearly articulated, all of which we can harness locally through our natural resources and pristine environment. For energy, we have the sun and the wind; for agriculture and farming, we have the land and the soil; for fishing, we have our vast expanse of waters; and for tourism, we have the natural beauty of our islands and our culture.

We must continue to seek the assistance of our development partners in reaching our highest potential to utilize our natural resources in ways that will provide sustained revenue for our citizens while protecting our environment.

It should be noted that this month and next month, solar system equipment will be delivered and installed in some of the outer islands of Chuuk and Yap. These efforts represent precisely the type of assistance and innovative solutions for which this country is striving to receive and implement.

Climate Change and Food Security

The land and the sea are integral parts of our heritage. They give us sustenance, and they define who we are. However, they are vulnerable to internal and external challenges, such as sea level rise, coastal erosion, and land degradation. Let me reiterate once again that it would not make any sense to develop our economy at the expense of our fragile environment.

The FSM is, and will continue to be, an active participant in the international negotiations on climate change. I call on all nations to protect our Mother Earth.

Burden Sharing

The distribution of responsibilities and revenues between the national and state governments is clearly spelled out in our constitution. Over the years, our state leaders have been seeking more direct assistance from the national government. I share the same sentiments because I believe that providing such assistance will improve the state governments' delivery of basic services to our people.

In line with this, my administration has proposed the establishment of the Federal Program Revolving Fund, which will facilitate the implementation of US federal programs in the state governments. I urge Congress to favorably consider the enactment of the necessary legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to reiterate the fact that for all the many challenges and tasks that require our nation's attention, one calls for us to focus, to unite, and to act together. The question of what will become of the Federated States of Micronesia after 2023 looms large as the most pronounced challenge that we face today. This epic challenge requires all of us to unite and work together to ensure that our nation will thrive, that our nation will prosper, and that our nation will survive.

I call on Congress to take favorable actions on the proposed legislative measures that I will be submitting, which include the Set Aside of funds; Reform of the Legal Framework on Foreign Investments; adoption of the National Policy on ODA; Federal Programs Revolving Fund; and the convening of a Constitutional Convention.

The task that we, the elected officials, are called upon by the people of this great nation may seem complicated and difficult at times. But in the innocent faces of children playing on the unpaved roadsides in Sapuk Village, in the weather-worn faces of men hauling in their fishing gears on the shores of Temwen island and Ifalik atoll, and in the gently aged faces of grandmothers sitting in their little shacks in Uttwe - we find the reason why we are here in this Chamber today.

On their faces we see the HOPE that they have for our nation, the TRUST that they have bestowed upon us to make their dreams, and the dreams of our Founding Fathers, become a reality.

Our people have continued to demand that we work together for real change. They know that as soon as we leave this Chamber, special and political interests will prevail to prevent the real changes that we need. Our people will even question whether we have the fortitude to make the changes that need to happen.

Today we must erase their skepticism, not with our words, but with our ACTIONS. Let us break our old habits and work together for real change - real change in the allocation and prioritization of our scarce resources.

Mr. Speaker and members of Congress, my fellow citizens, we must decide now whether we are prepared to rise to the occasion that history presents us today. I ask each and every one of us - are we ready to rise to the challenges that history presents to this nation today? I say we are -- and if we are - then we must act boldly! I believe therefore that the state of our nation will be one of progress and prosperity.

"I believe in human dignity as the source of national purpose, in human liberty as the source of national action, in the human heart as the source of national compassion and in the human mind as the source of our invention and ideas."

These words were spoken by President Kennedy and are still relevant to us today because I believe in the Micronesian spirit as our source for national unity. That unique bond that binds our nation of many islands together is our greatest hope today.

If we unite and commit ourselves to the task of preparing our nation for the uncertainties of 2023, then, we will be able to overcome the challenges of achieving that elusive goal of developing our nation.

God bless us all. And may God bless the Federated States of Micronesia.
Kalahngan,
Kamagar,
Kulo Mulalap,
Kinisou Chapur,
Thank you.

Some Pacific journalists wary of climate change issue



By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlle Press

May 27, 2013

Apia, Samoa — Journalists from throughout the Pacific region participating in a Climate Change Training workshop in Samoa expressed similar challenges that keep them from reporting on one of the most important Pacific wide problems. All of them agreed that the “alphabet soup” and “acronym stew” of the entities and programs currently dealing with climate change mitigation make it difficult to understand who the authoritative sources are.

Even the facilitating organization of the Pacific Media and Climate Change Training Workshop goes by an acronym – SPREP, the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Program.

The workshop is facilitated by SPREP in partnership with the Australian Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science Research and Tertiary Education and AusAID, which is short from Australian AID.

All of the journalists in attendance are experienced media representatives in radio, television, and print. They came from Samoa, Tuvalu, Kiribas, Papua New Guinea, Niue, Palau, Fiji, Tonga, FSM, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, and from Samoa.

During an introductory session each journalist was allowed time to discuss their previous challenges in covering climate change issues. Heads nodded in agreement as journalists discussed the difficulty of communicating on such an important matter that is also very technical in nature. They said that often times Climate Change practitioners often communicate in languages that are very difficult to understand. If journalists cannot understand the subject matter, they have a difficult time putting into words what readers will be able to understand.

Some journalists said that in their countries they have found government spokespeople on the issue of climate change to be hesitant in the extreme to discuss the matter with them because it is such politically sensitive matters that can affect the livelihoods of

their people.

Others said that often times climate change practitioners are so busy doing whatever it is that they are doing that they forget to stop and tell anyone about it.

Universally, the problem of finding an attractive angle to discuss the subject is a problem for journalists. They say that no one

will read an article full of facts and figures with no local “hook” to draw readers in.

Some of the SPREP officials commented on the tendency of some journalists to blame everything on climate change, even events that are in no way related such as tsunamis, which are caused by earthquakes. In response, some journalists said that they have been hesitant to write much about the worldwide crisis for fear of making exactly that kind of mistake.

“We need to have one brave one in at our newspaper. Someone who is brave enough to do the work to understand and then write about it,” one journalist said.

“Climate change is a long term issue but it is affecting the Pacific right now,” said Taito Nakalevu, SPREP’s Project Manager for PACC, for the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change Project. He said that Pacific Island nations have reported annual sea level rises between 4 and 7 millimeters with the highest level of sea level rise coming from the Federated States of Micronesia.

Sunny K. Seuseu, Principal Scientific Officer of Samoa’s Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment whose office compiles climate change data said that FSM’s reports annual sea level rise data of 12 millimeters per year.

At least one journalist pointed out that discrepancies like those make the job of a journalist reporting on climate change that much more difficult.

The goal of the five day workshop is for journalists to learn enough about the crisis to discuss it intelligently, and to discuss ways that they can effectively cover the issue after they return home.

Editor’s note: Taito Nakalevu, SPREP’s Project Manager for PACC, for the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change Project made what appeared to have been a special trip to the workshop where Pacific journalists are learning about climate change just to see me. He told me that he had given me incorrect data yesterday. He pointed to an official document that said that FSM’s reported annual sea level rise was not 7 millimeters as he had said the day before during a presentation but 10 millimeters. The number was still different from the 12 millimeters reported by a Samoan meteorologist but it seems from his documentation that 10 millimeters is the actual reported number. The long and short of it is that FSM is experiencing sea level rise right now. It’s not in the future; it is now.

Scientists “virtually certain” that human activity has been the cause of global warming

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlle Press

May 28, 2013

Apia, Samoa—Recently the group of 2000 scientists from around the world that make up the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) made a startling announcement. They not only said that the level of Carbon Dioxide in the atmosphere increased to 400 parts per million but they also announced that they are virtually certain that people are the dominant factor that is causing the observed global warming.

For many of us, the scientists may just as well have said that dogs are cats, cats are rats, and it’s currently bright and sunny on planet Mercury, but particularly for Pacific Islanders, the news is huge.

Islanders are already keenly suffering the effects of climate change through longer periods of drought, heavier rain when it comes, stronger and more frequent storms, flooding, higher than average temperatures, rising sea levels, increased coastal erosion, acidification of the ocean which causes coral reefs to die, and a plethora of other maladies. It’s all happening, and it’s happening right now.

This is climate change and scientists are now essentially saying, “As it turns out, we did it. It’s our fault.” Well, maybe not “us” specifically but our fellow man who at the turn of the 19th century started discovering ways to make life “easier” through mechanization and industrialization. They burned tons of coal at the start of the industrial period. Almost immediately the atmosphere began to suffer. Later it was the burning of petroleum products and many other human activities that had not even been conceived at the start of the industrial revolution. They also began to affect the environment negatively and the planet is heating.

Besides carbon dioxide there are actually a whole bunch of gases that are emitted into the atmosphere from many sources. Some of those gases gang up and essentially form a heat shield that reflects heat back to the earth that would otherwise have bounced out of the atmosphere into space. The gases act like the roof of an enormous greenhouse. It’s why they call them “greenhouse gases”.

CO₂—carbon dioxide is a naturally occurring gas. It’s the stuff we breathe out and that trees breathe in, but it is also produced by the burning of fossil fuels. Carbon dioxide doesn’t have the biggest “global warming potential” of all of the greenhouse gases but there is a great deal of it in the atmosphere, much more than all of the other greenhouse gases combined by a large measure.

The IPCC scientists were saying in their announcement that the carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere had reached the highest level it had ever reached. The reflective heat shield is as big as it’s ever been; bigger than the scientists had expected it would be by now, and the earth will continue to heat as it has been doing now for over 200 years only at a much faster rate.

The scientists were also saying that they’re virtually certain that it is us humans that have pushed things so far so fast.

That the IPCC scientists would say that humans are the cause of climate change is stunning really. Every word that is issued by the IPCC is a negotiated word. Some countries argue for language that is toned down and some countries argue for more severe language. That their statement made it out of the negotiation process and to the public indicates that they’re pretty sure that we’re causing the problem.

Just a few years ago, the Pacific Island region was pushing for a carbon dioxide ceiling of 350 parts per million. At that time the carbon dioxide level in the atmosphere was below that level, but the increase in carbon dioxide levels has skyrocketed and the people of the earth are already suffering for it.

The Samoa Ministry of Environment reports an annual average temperature increase of .22 degrees Celsius in Samoa. Sunny K. Seuseu, Principal Scientific Officer of Samoa’s Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment told journalists that the people of Samoa have been seeing a longer dry season and a shorter wet season. He said the two seasons were once even at about six months per year of each.

Seuseu also said that they have noticed that there are more harvest periods per year for locally grown food due to the change in the climate. It’s one of the few positives of climate change.

There is no longer an international legally binding agreement to limit the emissions of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. The Kyoto Protocol which served as a binding legal agreement to limit greenhouse gas emissions has expired. The world’s nations have not been able to hash out a new one but at least now there is a definitive statement from scientists that global warming is caused by humans. It’s good news for Pacific Islanders.

Whether their statement will have an effect on international climate change negotiations remains to be seen.

Kosrae road project is an example of Pacific adaptability to climate change

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

May 29, 2013

Apia, Samoa—While the nations of the world try to decide what, if anything, they should do about the causes of global warming, Pacific islanders have been making plans to cope with their new reality. They're trying to anticipate the kinds of problems they will face as the climate continues to change. It's called adaptation. It's a necessary survival skill for any living creature.

The Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) project of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Program is currently supporting the implementation of community-based adaptation measures in 14 countries throughout the Pacific. "These actions are intended to increase resilience in three key development sectors: water resource management, coastal zone management, and food production and food security," a PACC country brief of the FSM says.

One of the PACC projects is in Kosrae. According to a SPREP spokesperson, the project has been ongoing for four years.



Because of Kosrae's central mountains that rise sharply to 2000 feet above sea level "most of the state's infrastructure, commercial enterprises and residential properties are along the coast," the PACC country brief says. Further, 75 percent of Kosrae is experiencing coastal erosion—the land is slipping into the sea. "This erosion threatens the State's economy, communities and livelihoods," the report continues.

PACC FSM identified poor road design in Kosrae as a significant threat in the case of a climate change disaster. The road that Kosrae residents use every day was built in the coastal region of the State. If it were to become unusable due to flooding, Kosrae residents would be cut off from essential services. The Kosrae road has flooded many times before. Climate predictions for the

small island indicate that it will flood many more times.

"PACC FSM actions aim to improve the roading infrastructure (in Kosrae) with new hydraulic design features which take into account flooding risks from increased rainfall and sea level rise," the FSM PACC country report says.

Hydraulics is the study of fluid flow, including the flow of water.

"To date, stretches of roads have been elevated, culverts (pipes that allow water to flow underneath a road) redesigned and side drainage of the Tafunsak road segments modified in view of climate change impacts and projections", the report said.

According to the PACC country report, the problem was that the current road designs were based on an estimation that during the period of the next 25 years the road would receive maximum hourly rainfall events of about 7 inches. But a study in Kosrae indicated that figure should have been adjusted upward to 7 1/2 inches. The anticipated rainfall by 2050 is anticipated to increase even further to 10 inches per hour as a consequence of climate change. "As part of PACC FSM activities the road will be modified so that the drainage works can accommodate an hourly rainfall of 254 mm," the report said.

The report says that the Kosrae State Law No. 10-2 that was adopted by the 10th Kosrae State Legislature explicitly takes

climate change and adaptation measures into consideration for future development activities. The report calls that legislation, a "precedent setting" law in the FSM.

PACC FSM will also be installing sea-level and climate monitoring equipment on Kosrae.

In an effort to build community awareness and to showcase a practical adaptation measure, PACC FSM also built cement taro beds in response to flooding and salt water encroachment on the land that has affected crops. The showcase has so far been successful.

"Showcasing functional and tangible benefits from adaptation measures helps increase awareness and promotes replication (repeat of the project elsewhere)," the report says.

The Kosrae road project is not meant to be the "be all and end all" of climate change adaptation measures within the FSM. The roading project is meant to be a demonstration of one way that FSM islands can begin to adapt to the challenges of climate change.

"The results and lessons of the project will be shared regionally and globally, and bring together new knowledge generated through the project as the basis for a strategic and regional approach to climate change adaptation among Pacific Island countries and territories. These efforts will enable vulnerable communities to adapt to the negative effects of climate change and sea level rise," the report concludes.

FSM DEVELOPMENT BANK offers an INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY Kosrae State, Federated States of Micronesia

WATER BOTTLING FACTORY

FSM Development Bank offers a unique investment opportunity to lease and operate a water bottling plant in Kosrae State. The premises includes a ground lease, factory building, equipment and water source rights. A long term lease is available for land and improvements to FSM citizens, non-citizens and corporations for a 30 year term ending April 2043.



FSM Development Bank will accept proposals through August 15, 2013. For more information, please contact: Nora E Sigrah, FSM Development Bank, at email: noras@fsmdb.fm, phone: 691-320-2840, or fax: 691-320-6653



MCT receives grant from AusAID for Micronesia Challenge

Australian Embassy to the FSM

May 23, 2013

Representatives of the Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) accepted a grant for US\$46,000 from the Australian Embassy for the development of a Business Plan for the Micronesia Challenge (MC). The Chief Executives of the Micronesian jurisdictions of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau, the US Territory of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands established the MC to sustain the island biodiversity of Micronesia in order to ensure a healthy future for their people, protect their unique island cultures, and sustain the livelihoods of their island communities.

The project supported by the Small Grants Scheme (SGS) under the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID)

will result in the development of critical components of the Micronesia Challenge Initiative, including a fundraising booklet and power point presentation describing the MC's business plan. The business plan fundraising booklet will be based on the Sustainable Finance Plan previously developed for the MC. The business plan fundraising booklet and power point presentation will serve as fundraising documents to help leverage further financial and technical resources to help the MC proponents address the funding gaps identified in the MC Sustainable Finance Plan.

The Nature Conservancy has contributed an additional US\$5,880 to support the work. Ambassador Martin Quinn presented the check to MCT Executive Director Willy Kostka. Also present were Mae Bruton-Adams of the Nature Conservancy, Micronesia Program and Lisa Andon of MCT.



Australian Ambassador Martin Quinn, Lisa Andon of MCT, Mae Bruton-Adams of the Nature Conservancy, Micronesia Program, and MCT Executive Director Willy Kostka

Pohnpei swim club first public performance

By Conrad Kohrs

After 4 months in the water, Pohnpei Swim Club members had their first opportunity to perform in front of the public on Saturday, May 25th. The team divided up for an intersquad meet that was held at the beautiful FSM-NOC aquatic facility.

Coaches and swimmers spent these past months developing strength, endurance and technique. Coaches emphasized teaching the 4 competitive strokes and the techniques that bind improvement to the competitive swimming process.

The swimmers learned to identify individual strengths and weaknesses while coaches exposed them to certain attributes of character development, also necessary

for continued progress.

The mock meet gave the team an opportunity to understand their individual roles as swimmers; and the roles they play in the enrichment of their teammate's experience. The meet also allowed them to enjoy their first lessons in performance evaluation; learning to balance expectations with actions, and to enjoy relaxing before, during and after performance efforts.

37 events were swum, along with 2 mixed age and gender relays between the Sailfish, Wahoo and Marlins; with the Sailfish edging out the Marlins, and the Wahoo close at the finish.

PSC swimmers have begun the maturing process of facing challenges head on and relaxing inside their own bodies, to become the best they can be.



MV Caroline Voyager delays TC&I and education trip to the Mortlocks and Northwest regions in Chuuk

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, FSM — The MV Caroline Voyager, initially scheduled to leave Pohnpei yesterday on a trip to the islands in the Mortlocks and Northwest in Chuuk State, has been delayed for two days according to Secretary Francis Itimai, Department of Transportation, Communication and Infrastructure (TC&I) in a letter to President Manny Mori earlier today (May 24, 2013).

The Secretary said cargo off-loading of some three thousand (3,000) copra bags purchased by the FSM Coconut Development Authority (CDA) from Yap during the ship's last voyage (arrived back

in Pohnpei about a week ago) was the main reason for the decision to delay.

Off-loading of CDA cargo is normally done by the Federated Shipping Company in Pohnpei.

Secretary Itimai expressed confidence the off-loading work would be completed today (May 24, 2013).

Apart from providing passenger and cargo service to the Mortlocks and Northwest islands, the trip will enable the deployment of some staff of the FSM National Department of Education to administer the National Competency Test to selected elementary and high school grade levels in these particular regions.

Congress deliberates on a proposed "FSM chemical weapons act"

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, FSM — In today's (May 24, 2013) meeting, Congress passed in first reading Congressional Bill No. 18-01 jointly assigned to the Standing Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operation (J&GO) and the Standing Committee on External Affairs (Ex. Aff.).

The bill proposes to create a new Chapter 13 in Title 11 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, providing provisions for the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention at the national level.

Part of the J&GO Standing Committee Report No. 18-03 states:

The FSM National Government elected to join the Chemical Weapons Convention. Your Committee thus sees the enforcement of that accord as a necessity. Passage of the legislation is a step in that direction.

The FSM first elected to join the convention in 1993.

Also according to the report, the FSM Department of Justice "is made the 'National

Authority' on chemical weapons", permitting the Secretary of Justice to "cooperate and collaborate with foreign states, international organizations and entities, and foreign authorities" with a requirement that notifications of such cooperation be provided to the Secretary of Foreign Affairs. The text of the bill is in the link below.

<http://fsmcongress.fm/pdf%20documents/18th%20Congress/Bills/CB%2018-01.pdf>

The 18th FSM Congress has reached the 13th day of its First Regular Session today with committee hearings well underway on the FY14 Recommended Budget submitted by President Manny Mori last month.

The review of the comprehensive budget for the National Government has to be completed prior to September 30th to allow for a smooth transition into the next fiscal year and prevent breakdown of government services.

For further information, visit the FSM Congress website www.fsmcongress.fm as managed by the FSM Congress Public Information Office.

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FSM State and National Leaders endorse investment facilitation recommendations

FSM Information Services

May 29, 2013

Dept. of Resources & Development

The 6th FSM State and National Leadership Conference (SNLC) that took place on May 10th endorsed the recommendations arising from the Symposium on investment facilitation in the FSM, which was held on May 06-09, 2013 at the COM-FSM Gymnasium.

States and National Leaders noted with concern the areas of ease of doing business where the FSM needs to exert more efforts to enhance all-around business climate. These areas include the protection of investors, registration of properties, enforcing contracts, and starting a business. State and National Leaders also noted the critical need to support the local private sector with a view to enhance its capacity to produce competitive goods for both domestic and overseas markets, in line with the National Export Strategy adopted in December 2012 by the National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC).

After thorough review, the State and National Leaders adopted a number of recommendations formulated at the Symposium, in particular, the harmonization of substantive issues in foreign investment regimes across the four States; the development of time standards for State Courts based on the FSM Supreme Court model; the establishment of a one window shop for required documentation processes; the creation of an Investment Promotion Agency within the FSM Department of R&D to handle foreign investment; and the streamlining of the approval process of foreign investment in line with the current 7-day policy for registration of corporations.

In addition, the SNLC considered the need for a better protection of the rich and diversified cumulative body of knowledge, know-how, practices and representations developed and maintained by the people of FSM in interacting with the natural environment throughout history. In the same view, local products which correspond to the FSM and its four States as specific geographical locations or origins also need property rights protection. In this regard, the SNLC adopted a resolution calling for the development of a comprehensive Intellectual Property Right (IPRs) regime in the FSM to safeguard ownership rights over the traditional knowledge, genetic resources and local products originating from entities within the FSM.

of on-going initiatives towards right-sizing the public sector, nurturing private sector growth and enhancing investment activities for the overall objective of progressing economic development and building financial stability.

Participants to the Symposium enhanced their knowledge and understanding of investment promotion and facilitation through interacting with resource persons and learning from their presentations of experiences and lessons learned in different places. The resources persons who informed the Symposium included Ambassador George Hara, Special Adviser to the Cabinet, Office of the Prime Minister of Japan and Chairman of the Alliance Forum Foundation, Mr. Chris Kanazawa, Hawaii State Director, USDA-Rural Development, Mrs. Dianne Masih-Reddy, Senior Manager of Investment Fiji, West Regional Office, representing the Government of Fiji, Ms. Ikuko Matsumoto, Director, Urban Social Development and Public Management Division at the Asian Development Bank and her delegation, Mr. Jonathan Kirkby, Senior Investment Policy Officer, IFC-World Bank Group, and Mr. Joseph Bradley, Senior Vice-President/ Chief Economist & Business Continuity Officer, Bank of Guam.

President Manny Mori opened the Symposium and, among other things, reminded the participants of the conditions under which the FSM as a whole must press on in forging an acceptable future amid looming challenges. The Symposium would contribute immensely to the FSM's future-building endeavor.

The participants at the Symposium came from State and National Governments with many others representing the private sector and non-government organizations, as well as some officials from the FSM Development Bank and the Bank of the FSM. Additionally, various members of the resident Diplomatic missions and the international organizations based in the country availed themselves throughout the Symposium.

With the Leaders' endorsement of the recommendations, an NTFC subcommittee on investment facilitation will be established to monitor and assist with implementation progress.

For further information, please contact the Trade and Investment Division at the FSM Department of R&D at (691) 320-5133 or fsmrd@fsmrd.fm.

The Symposium was part of a number

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Palau Community College 50th Commencement Exercises

Palau Community College (PCC) held its 50th Commencement Exercises at the PCC Cafeteria this past Friday (May 24, 2013). A total of 132 graduates received their degrees and certificates: 100 PCC graduates, 7 PCC & MOH Substance Abuse and Addiction Treatment Counseling Program graduates, and 25 Adult High School graduates. Included in the crowd of proud friends and families were honored guests, ranging from Palauan government officials to educators to the Diplomatic Corps.

The ceremony began with the processional marching in of graduates from the different PCC schools: School of Arts and Sciences, School of Business, and School of Technical Education; also included were those who passed the Ministry of Health Substance Abuse & Treatment Counseling Program and graduates of Adult High School.

A rendition of the Palau national anthem, under the direction of Associate Professor Howard Charles, was then performed by the PCC Music Club. Pastor Hiob Ngirachemoi gave the invocation before Dr. Patrick Tellei, President of PCC, opened with the welcoming remarks. The commencement speaker was then introduced by Summer R. Saunders, Student Trustee member of the PCC Board of Trustees.

Reverend Billy Kuartei, a member of the PCC Board of Trustees, was again given the honor of commencement speaker. He had spoken before at the 16th PCC Commencement Exercises to the graduating class of 1979 when he was the vice director of the College of Micronesia (COM) Board of Regents. Reverend Kuartei has had an extensive influence on the growth of Palau. Not only is he an elder pastor of the Koror Evangelical Church, Reverend Kuartei is also the chief negotiator for the Compact of Free Association. In the past he has served as school principal for Emmaus High School and Bethania High School, director of the College of Micronesia Board of Regents, political advisor, and Minister of Education. He is also one of the original framers of Palau's constitution. Reverend Billy Kuartei became a member of the PCC Board of Trustees in 2011.

In his commencement address, Reverend Kuartei encouraged the graduating class to live by their passions instead of by the expectations of others for he has met many people, in his counseling experience, who did not enjoy the work they did. He told the graduating class that they will "eat the sandwich of their own making." In other words, life is a result of their efforts. He also advised the graduates to do their works to the best of their abilities for it will be the basis for their future compliments. Reverend Kuartei emphasized the importance of family and remembering one's roots. Without consideration for the humble beginnings, one cannot be thankful for the countless blessings. He congratulated the graduates for their efforts, commenting that PCC has done a sincere job in educating them all.

The valedictorian (also the recipient of the Outstanding Citizenship Award) of the PCC Class of 2013 was Kayleen J. Ongalibang. Ongalibang began her studies in Childhood Education in 2008. In 2007, she was employed by PCC. Today, she is an instructor at the Palau Community Action Agency (PCAA) center in Medalaii.

In her speech, Ongalibang encouraged her fellow graduates to be thankful for all the support they were given, especially at school and at home. She recognized the difficulties that came with life, sharing her personal struggles with being a working mother and a student. Though many challenges came about through the school years, Ongalibang commended each graduate for trying even when failure occurred over and over again. She believed that the graduates were just as qualified as any to inspire others. They did not "have to look for inspiration anymore, [for they had] the potential to make inspiration and contribution" to their society. To her fellow graduates, she advised each to be their own person for it is by being true to themselves that they can be great inspirations.

During the ceremony Dr. Tellei announced the departure of the Dean of Academic Affairs, Tutii Chilton. After years of working as an instructor and then a dean at the community college, Chilton has decided to take on a different path. Dr. Tellei expressed the school's best wishes to Mr. Chilton, promising to always have an open door if ever he wanted to return again. Robert Ramarui will be the school's temporary Dean of Academic Affairs until a permanent replacement can be found.

To commemorate the 50th Commencement Exercises, PCC published and distributed a book that highlights the schools 4,088 graduates from 1970 to 2013. The book also features graduates of the San Diego State University (SDSU) PCC Bachelor and Master Degree Program from 2003 to 2011 (66 masters and 56 bachelors), and graduates of the Fiji School of Medicine in 2006. Copies were provided to the honored guests during the graduation ceremony. The public is informed that copies are available by contacting 488-2470/2471.



Kayleen J. Ongalibang Valedictorian



Graduation Highlights

Palau Community College: 100 Graduates

(74 Associate of Applied Science Degrees, 17 Associate of Science Degrees, 9 Associate of Arts Degrees)

Awards and Recognitions

Valedictorian: Kayleen J. Ongalibang

Outstanding Citizenship Award: Kayleen J. Ongalibang

Outstanding Student Awards: 7

Alumni Awards: 13

Faculty Senate Awards: 3

Adult High School: 25 Graduates

(25 Diplomas)

Awards and Recognitions

Academic Excellence Award: Lemerie Tatingal

Exemplary Student Awards: Sophira Kyoshi, Lovinia Mtoched

Ministry of Health: Substance Abuse & Treatment Counseling Program: 7 Graduates

(7 Certificates)



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