

Disaster Risk Reduction Project Gearing Up In FSM

FSM Information Services, Palikir—November 4, 2009—The FSM is in the process of implementing the Disaster Risk Reduction Project (DRRP), which is funded (€ 1.4 million) by the European Union (EU) and will be implemented over a 4-year period by the FSM Office of Environment and Emergency Management (EEM) in conjunction with the Office of FSM National Authorizing Office (NAO), SOPAC, and the respective agencies in the four FSM States. The objective of the DRRP is poverty reduction and sustainable development through disaster risk reduction. Its focus is to strengthen disaster preparedness and mitigation through the establishment of Disaster Coordination Centers in each of the states as well as create an early warning system.

The necessary actions anticipated for the State Governments interventions include construction of a disaster coordination center in each state, construction of a National Disaster Management Center in Palikir, the National Capital, supply of communication equipment—early warning system study to identify equipment needs, and capacity building and training.

In a letter from President Mori to each of the four FSM State Governors, the President informed them of the upcoming project and stated that this project “cannot come at a more appropriate time given the need to prepare and respond to emergency situations as a result of climate change.” President Mori went on to say that climate change impacts fall most heavily on those least able to prepare and respond, and often on those who contributed very little to its causes, and that the FSM cannot spare any time in delaying the necessary actions to put the FSM on the path for full readiness.



President Manny Mori administered the oath of office to Mr. Stan Kensof with his wife, Mrs. Sheila Y. Kensof holding the bible, on November 12, 2009 at President's Cabinet Room.

2010 Census Project Receives \$811K from Congress

FSM Information Services, Palikir - October 29, 2009—The FSM Congress recently passed Public Law 16-7 appropriating about \$35.2 million for the operation of the branches of the national government, its agencies, various programs, grants, subsidies & contributions, and other purposes. Of this amount, \$9 million is allocated for Capital and Human Resource Development, about \$811,000 of which is for the 2010 Census Project. The total of funds received thus far for the census is \$1.43 million.

The Census of Population and Housing is the largest statistical operation any Statistics Office undertakes. It is considered to be the “mother” of all data gathering activities as it covered the entire population and gathered a wide variety of socio-economic data. It is the main official statistical source whereon policy formulation, decision-making, and plans for the 10 years follow-

ing the census are based.

The Office of Statistics, Budget, Overseas Development Assistance, and Compact Management (SBOC), the implementing agency for the project, had undertaken several activities since April 2008 in preparation for the 2010 Census. Amongst these were the:

- **Census Planning Workshop (Drafting of Census Operation Plan) -- April 2008**
- **Mapping Workshop I (Use of GPS in mapping process) -- June 8 to 12, 2009**
- **Census Launching/Workshop -- June 24 to 26, 2009**
- **Drafting of Questionnaire, field forms & manuals -- currently being field-tested**
- **Household Listing Survey -- August 5 to 28, 2009**
- **Mapping Workshop II (Re-delineation of**

Transportation Mission

Dispatched to Chuuk and Yap

FSM Information Services, Palikir -

October 29, 2009—A Mission has been dispatched from the FSM National Government to the States of Chuuk and Yap by President Manny Mori on October 25, 2009, that consists of Secretary Francis Itimai of the FSM Department of Transportation, Communication & Infrastructure, and two of his staffs; Principal Surveyor Mathias Mangmog, who is also the Acting Secretary of the Division of Marine Transportation, and Port Engineer Leo Lokopwe, the Assistant Principal Surveyor and in his current position as the Transportation System Development Branch Manager.

The first intention of this Mission is to meet with state counterparts on transportation issues and find ways to move forward on issues that include issuance of pilot licenses, re-validation or issuance of new licenses as required by FSM Code 19 for ships' Officers, and to discuss the vessels insurance scheme.

The second intention is to survey and inspect the M/V Hapilmogol 1 in Yap and M/V Chief Mailo in Chuuk and provide a full report to the President and to the Government of the People's Republic of China through the diplomatic channels on defects and needs for repair and dry-docking of both vessels.

The third part of the Mission is to discuss other pertinent matters which relate to projects administered under TC&I for the States.

The Mission will also be making visual inspection of the on-going airport project, the ARFF.

More information on this Mission will be made available once the trip report is made available.

EDs, compilation of a nation-wide Household Listing Database, and Pre-test Discussions) -- September 28 to October 14, 2009

- **Census Pretest Operation -- October 19 to 31, 2009 (ongoing)**

The newly received funding will be used to pay for contracting census field and office workers, acquire vehicles/office equipments, printing and shipping of documents, deployment of workers to the field, fuel, dissemination of census results and other expenses.

A census page is being developed and will soon be available on the Division of Statistics website <http://www.spc.int/prism/country/fm/stats>. Check back soon for more information on the census.

“Census is On! Count Me, Count You, Count All”



The National Union

Peace Unity Liberty

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U.S. Military Veterans Honored in FSM



President Mori accepts a wreath to lay in remembrance of all deceased veterans on November 11, 2009.

Photo courtesy of all US Embassy

(U.S. Embassy in Kolonia Media Release 18-2009) - The U.S. Embassy in Kolonia hosted ceremonies honoring all Micronesians and Americans who have served in the U.S. armed forces on Wednesday, November 11, Veterans of Foreign Wars Day.

Attendees at the ceremony included FSM President Emanuel Mori, FSM Vice Speaker Frederico Primo, Pohnpei State Governor John Ehsa, Pohnpei State Legislature Speaker Nelson Pelep, members of the Diplomatic Corps, and other FSM and State Government Officials, as well as local veterans and their families, including family members of soldiers who perished in combat.

Father Francis Hezel of Our Lady of Mercy Church opened the ceremony with the invocation, followed by the singing of the FSM and U.S. National Anthems by local band Pwihno. After members of the Embassy's Special Service Guards raised the American flag, U.S. Chargé d' Affaires William Douglass, FSM Secretary of Foreign Affairs Lorin Robert, and Sergeant First Class (US Army-retired) Benito

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Vice President Alik and Governor Ehsa Attend the Annual Meetings of SPC in Tonga

Palikir, Pohnpei (FSM Department of Foreign Affairs) - The Honorable Vice President Alik L. Alik led a delegation to the Kingdom of Tonga to attend the annual meetings of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC). The week started with the 39th Meeting of the Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations, and FSM was represented by Mr. Ricky F. Cantero, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Pacific Affairs of the FSM Department of Foreign Affairs. Then, later in the week, the 6th Conference of the Pacific Community began, and the entire delegation, along with the Vice President joined the conference. The meetings together are

commonly referred to as the annual meetings of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, and provide an opportunity for member countries to gather and discuss ways to strengthen the operations, work programs, and mandate of the Secretariat, with the overarching aim of providing better service delivery to its members.

The theme of the meeting was “Maximizing Impacts of Regional Programs at National Levels”. Many member countries felt that the theme reflected their aspirations as it echoed real expectations of the organization and focused on the concept of service delivery of regional programs to compliment national development efforts.

Among the many important issues that were discussed in the meeting, the major ones were the Joint Country Strategy, which essentially defines the development relationship between the Secretariat and its member countries, the Regional Institutional Framework, which reflected Forum Leaders' desire to amalgamate various regional organizations and their programs into SPC, and sustainable financing of the organization, with member countries expressing the need to ensure the continued financial sustainability of the Secretariat to enable effective fulfillment of its mandate and work programs.

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U.S. Military Veterans

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Cantero gave brief remarks.

Secretary Robert mentioned the unique relationship that the FSM and the U.S. enjoy under the Compact, including close cooperation for security and defense matters relating to the FSM. SFC Cantero urged veterans to seek all the benefits they are entitled to after their service ends.

Following the remarks, President Mori, Governor Ehsa, Vice Speaker

Primo, Chargé Douglass and First Sergeant (US Army-retired) Frank Semens laid wreaths at the Embassy flagpole in remembrance of those veterans who are no longer with us. Master of Ceremonies Jason Wemhoener-Cuite asked for a moment of silence for all veterans and active duty personnel who have died in the past year, including Ron Kersey, Weiner Hadley, Charlie Felton, Waynold Yamanguchi, Cwislyn Walter, and Youvert Loney.

Trumpeter Bill Jaynes broke the silence by playing Taps, and Father Hezel closed the ceremony with a benediction.

Going back to Trust Territory times, thousands of Micronesian citizens have served honorably in the U.S. armed forces. The 1986 Compact of Free Association between the United States and the Federated States of Micronesia ensures that Micronesian citizens have the same enlistment rights as American citizens.

FSM Embassy Celebrates 23rd National Day and 20th Anniversary of Relations with the People's Republic of China

November 6, 2009 (FSM Embassy-Beijing) - The Embassy of the Federated States of Micronesia celebrated the 23rd FSM National Day and the 20th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations with the People's Republic of China in Beijing on 06 November 2009. The function was hosted by Charge d'Affaires Carl D. Apis and his wife Naily Apis and was well attended by more than 300 diplomats, private sector representatives and friends of the FSM in China. Due to the importance that FSM Government attaches to its relations with China, the President dispatched his Vice President, the honorable Alik L. Alik to head the FSM Delegation to attend the function. Members of the delegation were the Honorable FSM Congressional Senator Joseph J. Urusemal, Secretary Peter M. Christian, Lt. Governor Churchill P. Edward, Pohnpei State Legislative Senator Aurelio P. Joab, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Asian Affairs Brendy Carl, Special Assistant to the President for Public Information Patrick Blank and Fisheries Advisor James Movick.

FSM National Day is a celebration of the historical day that the FSM Government achieved independence when the US Government terminated its administration of Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei and Yap under the United National Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. Vice President Alik described National Day in his statement as an occasion that "...we celebrate this great achievement and we pay tribute to our founding fathers for their pioneering work in the formative stage of our nation. We also extend our appreciation to our development partners for their continued assistance towards our nation building efforts and seek their continued support during these chal-

lenging times."

With respect to the 20th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations with the People's Republic of China, the Vice President stated that he was proud that after twenty years, "...we continue to proactively engage each other to enhance what our two sides have come accustomed to call the "FSM-China Model relationship." We are truly grateful to the Chinese Government and its people for the continued support towards our development efforts."

The festive occasion provided many foreign embassy representatives, interested investors and other friends to learn about the diverse culture of the FSM. FSM students based in Wuhan and Beijing performed traditional dances to show the audience a brief glimpse of what the FSM's tourism industry has to offer.

In addition, the Embassy circulated a special issue of the Lookwe Magazine (<http://www.lookwe.com/enhudongInfo.asp?id=266>) which focused on the tourism and foreign investment opportunities in the FSM by devoting a chapter to each state. Sixty thousand copies were issued in China in honor of the occasion. To demonstrate a taste of exotic FSM island food, the Embassy also secured, with the assistance of Tan Holdings Corporation, fresh tuna fish from Micronesia which was served as sashimi during the reception. Each guest left the function with a copy of the Lookwe Magazine and a specially distributed bottle of Chinese wine from Gui Zhou Dong Liquor Co., Ltd Dong Liquor which was labeled "In Commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of FSM-China Diplomatic Relations 1989 - 2009."



Chinese Foreign Affairs Director General Zheng Zeguang and Vice President Alik make a toast to honor the 23rd FSM National Day and the 20th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations with China

Millennium Development Goals Workshop Concludes in Palikir

FSM Information Services, Palikir—November 2, 2009 — On October 20th and 21st, 2009, members of various departments of the FSM National Government, along with representatives from non-governmental organizations and the private sector, gathered at the Central Facilities Building in Palikir, Pohnpei to review the status of the FSM's work toward attaining the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The group was welcomed by Dr. Rufino Mauricio, who is the Chairman of the MDG Taskforce and the Director of the National Archives, Culture, and Historic Preservation Office. In his welcoming statement, Dr. Mauricio commented on the challenges that the MDG Taskforce has undergone since its inception in 2004 by then President Joseph Urusemal.

Altogether, it has taken 3 years to collect the data that will serve as a baseline

for measuring progress towards meeting the MDG's. The reality of the "Millennium Development Goals Capacity Building Initiative in FSM" Project is immense, wrought with challenges such as a lack of historic data and disaggregated data, and inconsistent reporting mechanisms in the FSM states.

An overview of the workshop was provided by the Acting Director of SBOC, Ms. Suzanne Lowe. Acting Directory Lowe offered a comprehensive look at where FSM is in terms of socio-economic growth and development.

Over the two days of the workshop, various speakers gave presentations on the progress that the FSM has made to achieve the goals set out in the MDG's. A common challenge in all presentations was a lack of data, an item that going forward is going to be tackled by a technical assistance grant through the UN to

develop a systematic way for different sectors to record, track and report data.

Participants of the conference provided feedback along the way, including a desire for the MDG Taskforce Committees to be opened up so members of the NGO's and others can sit on them and give input into the reporting on the indicators. A common concern from the representatives of the NGOs was that the MDGs were not tailored for the FSM and some of the indicators did not correspond to the needs of the FSM.

Because many of the MDG's must be implemented at the state level, workshops similar to this one will be reproduced in each of the four FSM States.

For more information on this project, please contact Ms. Cecilia Sodre or Ms. Lynn Carlos, at the Office of SBOC at (691) 320-2823.

SPC Annual Meetings

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Another issue that was of great interest to the FSM, as host of a SPC Regional Office in Pohnpei, was the decentralization of the Secretariat. Towards this end, Vice President Alik reiterated the FSM's commitment to our regional process, to the Pacific Community, and reaffirmed the FSM's strong desire to see the strengthening of the Pohnpei Office to better provide service delivery to its Northern Pacific-based members, which, among other, includes Palau, Marshall Islands, Guam, and the CNMI. He further indicated that the FSM stands ready to work with members and the Secretariat to face the various challenges that come with decentralization.

The conference noted the positive developments currently being undertaken by the FSM and its other national and state stakeholders to fulfill its obligations as host of a SPC Regional Office. Paramount to this effort was the identification and acquisition of a land parcel required for the construction of a permanent office space for the SPC Pohnpei Office, as envisioned in the proposed Micronesian Village project. The underlying aim of the project is to provide the accommodation requirements for regional and international organizations currently based in Pohnpei (i.e.

SPC) and those organizations with interest to be based in Pohnpei. As chairman of the committee established to undertake the implementation of this project, Vice President Alik expressed that the project would provide many benefits and opportunities for the FSM, would further solidify SPC's presence in the North Pacific, and would reinforce its role as the premier technical organization in the Pacific region.

As a member of the delegation to the meetings, Pohnpei State Governor John Ehsa was provided the opportunity to address the conference to which he reaffirmed his support for SPC and the Micronesian Village Project. He further confirmed the availability of a land parcel in Pohnpei that is needed to ensure the project's implementation. The property referenced was the Botanical Garden area, which is centrally located in Kolonia Town with close proximity to other development amenities, such as hotels, restaurants, banks, recreation areas, and educational institutions. Governor Ehsa also confirmed his eagerness to progress the implementation of the project as it would provide the necessary conditions to enable the SPC Pohnpei Office to strengthen its mandate in service-delivery. The project was envisioned not only to provide accommodation needs for regional and international organizations, but also to

house an international standard conference center to enable the FSM and Pohnpei State to effectively host regional meetings.

In this connection, the Secretariat confirmed to provide the technical assistance and resources required to assist FSM's effort to progress the project and agreed to field a professional architect to visit Pohnpei to consult, organize and develop a design brief in December of 2009. The brief is expected to be completed in January 2010. Vice President Alik and Governor Ehsa both conveyed their appreciation for SPC's assistance to the FSM.

En route back to Pohnpei through Fiji, Vice President Alik and Governor Ehsa took the opportunity to meet with FSM students currently studying in Fiji and shared words of encouragement for them to excel in their studies. Governor Ehsa also took the opportunity in Fiji to meet with officials from the Fiji Islands Trade and Investment Bureau to discuss Fiji's best practices on economic development initiatives.

The other delegation member who attended the meetings was Mr. Samson Pretrick, FSM Ambassador to Fiji.

The outcomes of the SPC Meetings may be obtained at the Department of Foreign Affairs by calling (691) 320-2613.