

2009 FSM National Law Day

Palikir, Pohnpei) FSM National Law Day is one of the court's annually sponsored programs that features high school students representing their states of Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei and Yap in debates on issues of national significance. The purpose of the Law Day, when it was first organized and held in 1991, was to involve high school students and the general public in discussion of issues important to the Federated States of Micronesia as a developing nation. Law Day has become an important activity of the court. Since its inception on July 12, 1991, over 120 high school students from the four states have been involved in the event and over \$120,000 in scholarship funds have been issued. For the past seventeen years, the Federated States of Micronesia, through the Supreme Court, has

been providing the opportunity to high school students to participate in the development of our nation through debates on issues important to the FSM, and the same opportunity has been given to the general public to be involved in these discussions as well.

A coordinating committee is appointed each year to organize the law day. The committee selected its chairman after the appointment and decided on the topic of the debate. This year's topic is:

"Be it resolved that in the interest of improving the health of the citizens and residents of the Federated States of Micronesia, the importation of the following items into the FSM shall be prohibited by law: Turkey Tail, Canned Corn Beef, Spam, Instant Ramen Noodle. Such other products as may be determined by statute or

regulation to be unhealthful."

Each year, the court pays to send the student debaters to the venue of the debates and provides financial assistance for their initial post-secondary education to attend colleges and universities of their choice, including the College of Micronesia-FSM. The scholarship assistance money is given to the student debaters upon their submission of letters of acceptance to the colleges or universities of their choice to the court.

The venue for the 2009 FSM National Law Day is Chuuk State. Since July 12 falls on a Sunday this year, the committee decided to move the event to Monday July 13, 2009. The ceremonies and debates will commence at 9:00 a.m., Chuuk time, and will be broadcast live throughout the Federated States of Micronesia on Monday, July 13, 2009 from the State of Chuuk. ***

UOG Graduation Address Continues ...

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about the opportunities that the Guam military Build-up will bring and the challenges of the global economic crisis and effects of climate change on the islands. The President told the graduates that "you now have the opportunity to step up to the plate to help fill the dreams of your forefathers; that of a life of dignity underpinned by a better standard of living that is in harmony with nature." He told them that the "promise and hope of these islands rest upon your shoulders" and that they must look within themselves to answer this call.

President Mori also asked UOG to expand its commitment on issues that are unique to the Micronesia region and to place greater emphasis on the challenges produced by global warming. He asked UOG to focus on

practical ways to empower communities and the private sector in the islands to help the islands adapt to and combat climate change and to put more effort into producing scientists skilled in identifying and containing health hazards and environmental pollutions.

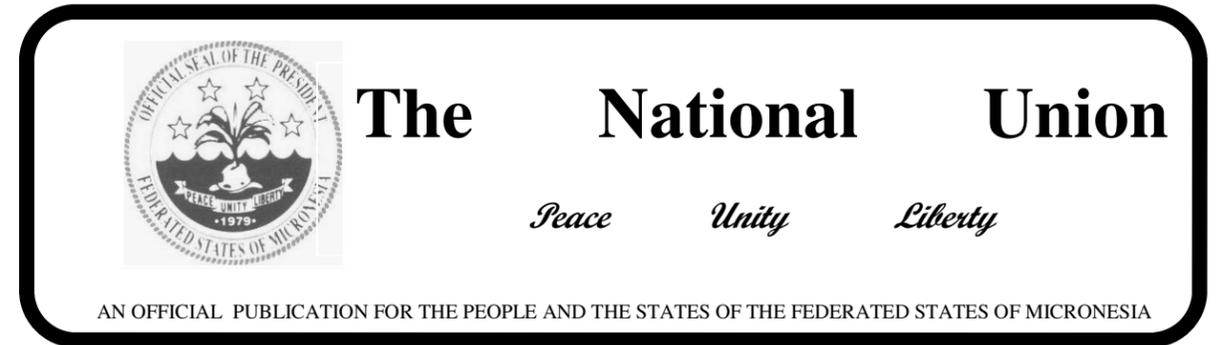
President Mori ended his remarks by challenging the graduates to take on climate changes as the priority challenge of their generation and he told them that he is confident the University has enabled them to measure up to the challenge.

In addition to the address, President Mori was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters Degree that was certified by the Board of Regents. This degree was awarded based on the recogni-

tion of President Mori's work and his vision for FSM and the Micronesia region and was presented to him by the President of UOG, Dr. Robert Underwood. Former President Uresenal also received this doctorate degree when he spoke at UOG's graduation.

In terms of FSM citizens participating in the graduation ceremony, there was one graduate student who earned a Masters degree and two FSM citizens are currently employed as faculty at UOG.

A copy of President Mori's address can be found on the President's website at <http://www.fsmpio.fm/Speeches/mori/Microsoft%20Word%20-%20UOG%20Graduation%20Address%20revised%204-Final.pdf>. ***

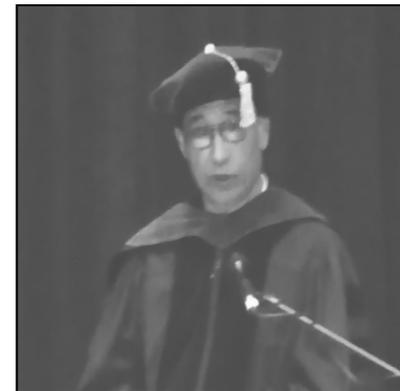


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President Mori Addresses the Spring Graduating Class of 2009 at the University of Guam



President Mori was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters Degree, based on the recognition of President Mori's work and his vision for FSM and the Micronesia region

On Sunday, May 31, 2009, President Manny Mori addressed the graduating class of UOG at their Spring 2009 Graduation Ceremony in the UOG Field house. President Mori had been invited to give the key-note address at the request of UOG and the graduating class. He was selected because of the fact that he is an alumni of UOG and since he has obtained the highest level of government office of any UOG graduate; the presidency. He also fit in perfectly with the University's theme of celebrating a "tradition of generations of Tritons", since the President has a daughter who graduated from UOG in December of 2008. President Mori is not the first

FSM President to speak at UOG's graduation ceremonies, former President Joseph Uresenal also gave a key-note address during his presidency, but he is not an alumnus of UOG.

President Mori greeted the graduates and thanked the University for the privilege of giving the key-note address. He also thanked the people and government of Guam for hosting FSM citizens on their island and for all the opportunities afforded to FSM citizens in Guam, especially in education.

The President's address focused on the world outside of the University and he talked

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FSM Government Sponsors Captive Insurance Seminar in Tokyo

On Tuesday, May 26, 2009, the FSM Government, in cooperation with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), Japan Institute for Pacific Studies (JAIPAS), and the FSM Captive Insurance Council, sponsored a seminar at the United Nations University in Tokyo entitled "Federated States of Micronesia Investment & Captive Opportunity." This was the third seminar for Japanese companies and private investors to learn more about FSM as a site for investment. There were several speakers who gave presentations at the seminar, including opening remarks from President Manny Mori, and an overview of the

FSM from Secretary of Resources & Development (R&D), Hon. Peter Christian. After introductions, Ambassador John Fritz, FSM Ambassador to Japan, gave introductory remarks that included information about the Pohnpei runway expansion and the future ability of FSM to have direct flights between Tokyo and Pohnpei. He also explained the "Rainbownesia Project", which is a campaign to increase support and friendship of Japanese people with Micronesians and grow awareness of the upcoming inaugural flight, which is scheduled for February of 2011. Ambassador Fritz also introduced the FSM Delegation that was in attendance

which included President Mori, the First Lady, Emma Mori, Secretary Christian, Secretary Lorin Robert of Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Marion Henry, Assistant Secretary of R&D.

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FSM National Taskforce on Influenza A (H1N1) Recommends Cancelling Airport Screening

In a letter to President Mori, the President's H1N1 National Taskforce has given a recommendation to cancel airport screenings for passengers who may be infected with the H1N1 Influenza A virus. The Taskforce has based their recommendation on "evidence from other countries, the experience of FSM public health staff, and the science of H1N1," as stated in the letter.

The letter further stated that despite good intentions, the current passengers screening for H1N1 at points of entry (particularly airports) that the FSM States are currently doing has become a burden on the public health resources for some of the states. For example, multiple staff members have been diverted from their usual program duties (tuberculosis, diabetes, maternal and child health, etc.) in order to conduct daily airports screening activities. As the number of

H1N1-affected areas increases, so does the number of passengers undergoing individual screening. At the same time, it has long been recognized that passenger screening CANNOT prevent the introduction of the H1N1 to our country. This has been emphasized repeatedly by international agencies, particularly the World Health. It has also been demonstrated by the fact that Japan, despite conducting temperature screening on *every single* arriving passenger, has acquired the greatest number of cases of any Asia-Pacific country. At best it will detect a small number of symptomatic cases, while most cases go undetected (because they are still in the incubation period). In the Southeast-Asia region, of 1.7 million passengers passing through checkpoints, only 3 patients with H1N1 have been picked up through passenger screening.

Based on the above mentioned

examples and based on the latest information and sciences of H1N1 available, it is recommended that the current active passenger screening for H1N1 at the points of entry be discontinued, unless surplus resources are clearly available. It is far more important that limited resources be channeled toward hospital preparedness, good surveillance for influenza-like-illness, and public education.

While President Mori endorses the H1N1 National Taskforce's recommendation and supports the plan to focus more on hospital and other public health countermeasures instead, he has also asked the taskforce to continue monitoring what is going on in our neighboring islands, especially Guam and Hawaii, and periodically review if additional actions are necessary. ***

Captive Insurance Seminar Continues ...

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President Mori gave opening remarks to welcome people to the seminar and briefly introduced the business environment of the FSM. His remarks focused on the strengthening of the relationship between the FSM and Japan and how the FSM is preparing to become a strategic hub for Japanese Captive Insurance companies. He mentioned the simple and efficient tax system in the FSM that has favorable tax rates and will be attractive to Japanese companies. This process of Captive Insurance, which is a self-insurance plan where companies insure themselves, is something that is currently done in places like Vermont, a state in the US, and in the city-state of Singapore. Due to

recent regulation changes and alignment with Japanese tax rules, the FSM has positioned itself to attract Japanese Captive Insurance businesses to the FSM and, as a result, generate revenue through corporate taxes paid by new Captive Insurance companies that base their offices in the FSM.

Following President Mori, Secretary Christian gave more detailed information about the geography, statistics and history of the FSM. Through a slide presentation, the audience was briefly introduced to different aspects of the FSM with the hope of increasing awareness and comfort levels of businesses thinking of coming to the FSM for investment.

In addition to presentations from the FSM Delegation, there

were other presenters including Mr. Masanobu Takayama, a Tax CAP who talked about the tax system of the FSM and gave utilization ideas and Ms. Wakaba Taitano, from USCPA, who talked about the strength and merits of the FSM and on how to establish and FSM corporation.

At lunch, people were encouraged to network with members of the delegation and with each other.

The session went on into the afternoon and other Captive Insurance specialists spoke about world trends and application ideas, and finally, Mr. Steven Baker, CEO of MRA, which is based in Pohnpei, gave closing remarks. *****

Vice President Alik Declares May 31, 2009 World No Tobacco Day



On May 28, 2009, Vice President L. Alik, on behalf of President Mori, signed a proclamation to proclaim Sunday, May 31, 2009 as "World No Tobacco Day".

The proclamation highlighted that tobacco use is the single-most preventable cause of death and disease in our society. Since there is approximately 1.8 billion young people (age 10-24) that live in our world today and more than 85% are found in developing countries, it is very important to educate our youth on the health risk that tobacco presents. The proclamation highlighted that May 31 of each year has been established by the World Health Organi-

zation as "World No Tobacco Day", and it is intended to encourage government agencies, communities, groups and individuals to become aware of the devastating costs of tobacco consumption and to take appropriate action.

This year's theme, "Tobacco Health Warning," is an opportunity to mobilize various sectors of society in communities large and small to help understand that tobacco health warnings appear on packs of cigarettes and are among the strongest defenses against the global epidemic of tobacco. These health warnings contain both pictures and words because they are most effective at convincing people to quit using to-

bacco. Such pictorial warnings appear in more than a dozen countries.

In response to this threat to the people, this year's World No Tobacco Day campaign focuses on the following: health warnings describing the harmful effects of tobacco use should be placed on packs of tobacco and their outside packaging and it is recommended that warnings contain pictures.

The proclamation also stated that the World Health Organization is encouraging the promotion of "World No Tobacco Day" throughout the world with strategies for year-long observances, stressing the importance of tobacco control, particularly education and policy efforts to prevent use and addiction.

In the Proclamation, Vice President Alik urged all FSM citizens to take part in the observance of the Proclamation and encouraged participation in the worldwide effort of attaining good health for all. ****

FSM Students Showcase the FSM in the 2009 Foreign Student's Culture Festival of Beijing University of Science & Technology



From L-R: Jhirimick Mori, Jaylinda Immanuel, Glorianne William, KK Kiyoshi, Melyda George, Kaeholani Elieisar, Glenda Elieisar, Cheryl Killion, & Philomina Abraham

May 25, 2009 (FSM Embassy, Beijing) At the invitation of the Beijing University of Science & Technology, the FSM Embassy participated in the opening ceremony of the 2009 Foreign Student's Culture Festival. The Festival was held from 25-26 May 2009. Under the theme of "Open a Window into the World," over twenty countries

were showcased and promoted by their respective foreign students attending Beijing University of Science & Technology. Such exhibits included cultural works of art, national flags, pictures, clothing, musical instruments, music, etc. Cultural performances and demonstrations were also presented in the festival.

The FSM Embassy is proud to report that the FSM Students of Beijing University of Science & Technology did an excellent job in promoting the Federated States of Micronesia. The FSM booth was adorned by unique handicrafts, breathtaking photos, and colorful attires from the FSM. The FSM Students who showcased the FSM at their university did an impressive job in designing an excellent exhibit. They were able to utilize their Chinese language skills in the description of their exhibits and in promoting the FSM to the many

curious Chinese people that visited the FSM booth.

Under the Mori administration, the FSM Embassy is actively promoting the FSM as an excellent tourism and investment destination. As tourism remains an important pillar to the economic development of the FSM, the Embassy is confident that FSM students studying in China can indeed play an important role in the development of Chinese tourism in the FSM.

Representing the Embassy to the opening ceremony was First Secretary Vincent K. Sivas. Also present during the occasion was Mr. Josaiah Waguk, Special Assistant to the President, and Mr. Brendy Carl, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Asian Affairs of the FSM Department of Foreign Affairs. Mr. Waguk and Mr. Carl are in China participating in the Seminar on Chinese Government Concessional Loan. **