



CHUUK PERFORMERS AT THE THIRTEENTH PACIFIC FESTIVAL OF ARTS AND CULTURE IN HONOLULU



Pollap dancers on stage during the opening ceremony as part of the FSM Delegation entrance event. The ceremony took place at the Hawaii Convention Center in Honolulu on June something something. After the opening, performances from all participating Pacific countries took place concurrently at several FestPAC venues throughout the island of Oahu.

From June 8 to June 15, hundreds of Pacific Island guardians of culture and heritage, as well as the finest in arts and crafts, converged in the Aloha State of Hawaii to unfold the 13th Pacific Festival of Arts and Culture (FestPAC). Among them, selected performers from Yap, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Chuuk brought to the melting-pot event their own versions of authentic chants, songs, performing art, and tangible unique crafts and carvings that have survived generations of change and upheavals. The FestPAC rotates among Pacific entities every four years, but got interrupted by the global Covid pandemic. The FSM took part in this event as one nation. However, each State was allowed to contribute elements of culture through dance, song, arts and crafts, chants, and other authentic display and performance created in modern times but accepted as expressions of island ingenuity. One important element of this recent FestPAC was the canoe sailing display. The Hawaiians used this portion of the gathering as a tribute to Mau Pailug who helped them regain the knowledge of traditional navigation and seafaring practices.



A team from Fefen combining performers who reside in the State of Hawaii and others who took the trip from home focused mainly on the presentation of the Unong Sepiechen, as well as other valuable gift items for Hawaii's traditional and State officials. Above, team doing emweiren sepi.

Other Chuukese residing in Honolulu took part in the various events as members of a culture learning program that has been ongoing for the benefit of younger generations without first hand experience of culture in Chuuk.

CHUUK SUCCESSFULLY HOSTS THE THIRD MICRONESIA EXPO



Hosting the Third Micronesia Expo was a milestone achievement for Chuuk State as it was the first time the Government and People of Chuuk welcomed all of FSM for a big event under its roof. Yap brought in a delegation of around fifty, led by The Honorable Lieutenant Governor Francis Itimai. Kosrae was the first delegation to land on Weno nearly one week ahead of everyone, led by none other than The Honorable Governor Tulensa Sigrah, madam First Lady of Kosrae, and The Honorable Andy Waguk, Floor Leader of Kosrae State Legislature. Pohnpei State proudly showcased the largest delegation that exceeded one hundred participants. Most of them hailed from Madolenihmw Municipality and Kittu Municipality, thanks to the MV Navigator for providing sea transportation. The Pohnpei Delegation was a truly lively



Kosrae Delegation at 'fafa' demo

bunch, led by The Honorable Governor Stevenson Joseph, Madam First Lady, The Honorable McGarry Miguel, Pohnpei State Legislature, and The Honorable Emerson Eperiam, mayor of Kittu Municipality.

CVB VISITOR-FRIENDLY APPROACH PROJECT REACHES ENIN, TONOAS



The CVB Visitors friendly approach project has been ongoing since December 2023, focusing on schools and communities. On September 27, a community in the village of Enin on Tonoas island was approached after having made a number of contacts prior to the visit. Chief Hosana Rapa, along with a brother, her husband and a few children were there to receive their visitors. Both CVB staff and Chief Hosana's team took time to observed land sites where many remnants of WWII lay idle. Land owners were asked to consider opening their properties to visitors and those with interest to come to the place. The Chief expressed willingness to pursue a working relationship with CVB and visitors.

CVB TO RECEIVE \$112,000 FROM PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT IN FY2025

Pending Grant Award from the United States pursuant to the Compact, CVB is to receive an amount of \$112,000.00 from funds earmarked for Private Sector Development in fiscal year 2025. Among other use, this fund is to support capacity building training in customer service for hotel and restaurant personnel, training for hospital personnel and diver operators in care giving using the hyperbaric chamber, and enhancement in social marketing capacity including the use of the internet to increase awareness on destination Chuuk.

CVB is keen on engaging municipal government and community leaders to increase their awareness and involvement in tourism program planning and evaluation and strengthen approaches to community-based tourism in isolated areas. Community tourism encompasses hospitality for cruise ship and brief contact visitors.

T.H. GOVERNOR ALEXANDER NARRUHN ASSEMBLES CHUUK LEADERSHIP SUMMIT AT STATE CAPITAL



The Honorable Governor Alexander Narruhn convened a Chuuk Leadership Summit that took place on September 9 to 11, 2024 at the Chuuk State Administration Complex Auditorium. The meeting was attended by the honorable mayors and legislative officials from the forty (40) municipal governments in Chuuk State.

The summit allowed for the opportunity to update leaders and the people of Chuuk on a number of achievements and initiatives made the past 3 years or so. A key agenda item focused on determining revenue sharing options from expected increase in State funds pursuant to the recently amended FSM Constitution, specifically relating to fishing fees distribution among the FSM National Government and the four FSM State Governments.

The municipal government officials at the meeting expressed their preference for an increase in municipal government share of the revenue. Meanwhile, Chuuk State Government, while agreeing to increasing municipal share, also emphasized the need to invest in long-term development initiatives that would strengthen socio-economic gain and better financial climate.

CVB MEETS WITH NORTHWEST MAYORS ON THE FIRST DAY OF CHUUK LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

During the lunch break of the first day of the Chuuk Leadership Summit, CVB executive director and staff members were allowed the opportunity to interact with mayors and council members from the Northwest region who were at the summit. The meeting was also attended by The Honorable House Vice Speaker Andrew May from Pollap island and the Honorable Senate Floor Leader Atanasio Hetiback also from Pollap island.

CVB had two main request that were brought to the attention of the Northwest leadership. First, that they support CVB request to Chuuk State Government to earmark two percent (2%) of new money from fishing fees as investment for tourism development starting in FY2026. Second, that they agree to build Northwest style local huts at the culture village where the Micronesia Expo 2024 took place in Iras Village. As bonus, CVB also urged Northwest leaders to develop a region-wide approach in providing hospitality to visiting cruise ships. And lastly, Northwest leaders were asked to support a call for Chuuk to consider in-State skyaccess to boost development.



CHUUK RECREATION BOARD AND OCEANIA ATHLETICS ASSOCIATION EXPLORE 1 MILE COURSE CERTIFICATION



The Oceania Athletics Association (OAA) President, Mr. Robin Sapong, and Chuuk Recreation Board Chairman, Mr. Inson Namper, have been bouncing ideas for possibility of certifying a one mile race course in Chuuk in the near future. CVB Executive Director has expressed interest in the endeavor. Chuuk Airport Manager, Mr. Jerry Irons, is also part of the discussion as the airport runway seems to be the best option among all road segments.

OAA President Sapong believes that having such course certification in Chuuk would mean opening up to future possibilities that ignite sports tourism. It is in this context that CVB is offering assistance in event promotion and sponsorship. CVB has organized road events in the recent past along with the airport and other partners. A airport runway race is tentatively scheduled for the month of December.

THE SENATE CONFIRMS NOMINATION OF MR. TURAY SETIK TO CVB BOARD OF DIRECTORS

On October 1, The Senate confirmed that nomination of Mr. Turay Setik to sit on the CVB Board of Directors.

Mr. Setik was nominated by Governor Alexander Narruhn on May 31, 2024 to represent the business community on the Board. With this action by the Senate, the CVB board now has three active members which includes Mr. Marion Hashiguchi and the Director of the Department of Marine Resources, Mr. Krisos Victus.

Chuuk State Law number 11-12-05, which became law on February 17, 2012, amending the CVB creation law and changing the appointment of members of the Board as the governing body. Pursuant to this change, three of the five board members are chosen by the Governor, subject to confirmation by the Senate. The remaining two are chosen by the Legislature.

CVB welcomes Board member Setik and looks to working with the governing body closely to advance priorities and activities relating to tourism development in Chuuk as well as other cross-sectoral responsibilities with other State and FSM offices and agencies.

CVB ENGAGES WITH ETTEN RE COMMUNITY TOURISM

In the afternoon of September 28, around fifteen youth, women, men, and community leaders responded to a request by CVB for a meeting on Etten Islet. Although Etten is separated from island of Tonoas, it is actually a part of the village of Nukuno, owing to an enduring customary system and municipal government formalities in modern era. Prior to the 2nd World War, Japanese military transformed Etten into a huge immovable war plane carrier. Today, apart from its history of military airstrip role in the Japanese imperial naval command in Chuuk, Etten holds several other war relics of cave system, building infrastructures, etc. Residents are well aware of their island's worth to researchers and curious visitors with interests in remnants of wartime Micronesia. CVB holds the meeting to nurture collaboration with resource owners and understand their view on the way to improve community tourism.



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Chuuk Clean and Beautiful*

