



CHUUK HONORS VICTIMS OF OPERATION HAILSTONE: 80TH MEMORIAL YEAR



On February 16, a gathering took place at the Blue Lagoon Resort to honor the victims of war in Truk Lagoon, which began with the Operation Hailstone, February 17 and 18, 1944. The memorial function was attended by certain leaders, business and community members, municipal government officials, students, as well as other visitors.

The Honorable Alexander R. Narruhn, Governor of Chuuk State, and Madame First Lady graced the event, along with T.H. Arthur Irons II, Chairman of the Committee on Resources and Development, House of Representatives and Vice Chairman T.H. Timothy Ruda.

Also in attendance were T.H. Redley Killion, former Vice President of the FSM and the former Speaker of the FSM Congress, T.H. Jack Fritz.

Four distinguished members of the private sector at the event were: T.H. Gradvin Aisek, owner of the Blue Lagoon Resort and Dive Shop and current Mayor of Tonoas Municipality; Mr. William Stinnett, owner of the Truk Stop Hotel and Restaurant; Captain so and so from the Odyssey, a divers liveaboard ship, and Mr. Johnny Meppen, a Chuukese private attorney.

A huge appreciation to the following for making time to be present: Keisuke Yokota and Eri Umino from Japan, both of whom reside on Weno Island operating the Chuuk Lagoon Dive Treasures, and Sergeant Justin Mitchell from the US Army Pacific Division.

A great measure of gratitude owed to Senior Pastor Perry Killion and the choir from the Logan Memorial Church, Mr. Sairos James for representing the honorable Mayor of Weno Municipality, and Fr. Kelly Yalmadau from the Chancery Office of the Diocese of the Caroline Islands for their significant involvement.

This year's memorial stood out for allowing the youth to share their view on the history of the war, getting participation from Chuuk High School and the Saramen Chuuk Academy seniors who led in the singing of the FSM National Anthem.

SECOND CVB SCHOOL OUTREACH FOR VISITOR-FRIENDLY-APPROACH PROJECT ENGAGES SCA STUDENTS

CVB has a "project" that is partly funded by Compact sector grants known as the Visitor-Friendly-Approach (VFA) in fiscal year 2024. The objective of this project is to inform and sensitize the youth regarding tourism matters. A huge part of this is to improve attitude toward visitors in general, based on customary norms and Christian call for "good neighbor" way of life, as an integral component of human rights values.

On February 10, CVB outreach team engaged with Saramen Chuuk Academy students in our second of such trip. The students welcomed the team and participated in the activities of the project with enthusiasm. At the end of the meeting, the students and their school Administration received an invitation by the CVB team to take part in the upcoming Operation Hailstone 80th memorial on February 16.

The first VFA school outreach took place at Chuuk High School on November 16, 2023.



CHUUK AIRPORT SECURITY AND EMERGENCY DRILL: A MULTI AGENCY LEARNING EXERCISE



The week of February 5 personnel from the Chuuk Airport, the Department of Public Safety, the Department of Health Services, the Red Cross Society, the International Organization for Migration, as well as the Chuuk Center for Emergency Operation took part in a table top exercise at the Governor's Office Auditorium.

The learning exercise concluded on February 9 with a full scale emergency practice to alert responders to their various parts in such situation.

The main road intersections close to the airport area and leading to the hospital were manned with traffic officers controlling pedestrians and motorists.

With established crash incidence in our recent history, the drill was seen as highly important to enhance readiness in crisis response and keep front-liners vigilant.

Personnel from US Aviation and FSM counterparts provided technical and expert support to the training.

MV ARTANIA LEAVES BIG LESSONS FOR CHUUK IN THE WAKE OF HER QUICK PASSAGE

The MV Artania would have been the third cruise ship to bring globe-venturing visitors to Chuuk in five months after the National Geographic Resolution on October 20, 2023, and the Coral Expedition that moored near Tonoas Island on November 24 to 25.

According to the Pacific Coast Agency, serving as local agent for the ship, around two-thousand passengers were on board, and nearly two hundred of them had expressed interest to get off on Weno Island for brief excursions.

Immediately following her arrival on February 23, crews from the ship came to shore to checkout the landing points where their clients would get on land. This exercise took over two hours.

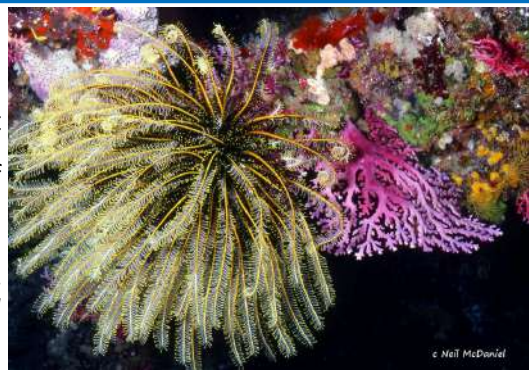
However, toward noon time, CVB got informed by port agents that MV Artania had to sail on, aborting all interests for land excursions.





BEAUTY ON THE SHIPWRECKS IN CHUUK LAGOON UNDERWATER

For a huge majority of Chuukese, seeing the wrecks with our own eyes is not part of our life itinerary. We rely entirely on information provided by divers, most of whom pay dearly to get to Chuuk, and still, have to pay some more to be allowed to go underwater. We thank them for their interest and for providing interesting info and visuals. (Photos by Neil McDaniel)



CPUC TECHNICIANS REPAIR SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM AT THE CHUUK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT



CPUC Renewable Energy Technicians repaired the Solar Energy Systems placed at the Chuuk State International Airport. Work includes: replacing a bad inverter to a new replacement which is currently operating, replacing of a few Solar panels due to physical damage that led to the decline in

performance and testing/checking of the ground fault in the system as there maybe signs that indicate faulty outlets. It is part of a collaboration between the State and CPUC. The State agrees to provide the roof top space to CPUC for clean energy. CPUC, on the other hand, is responsible in maintaining and servicing the overall solar energy system. The solar panels were paid for by a grant.

The report was made by CPUC information office on February 22, posted on their Facebook page. Ach anean pwe aramas repwe fakkun aucheani met umunu ekkei sokkun pisekin tu-fich me aninis faniten fefeitan fonuach.

CVB COMBINES CLEANING AND BEAUTIFICATION AS PART OF COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP



Cleaning crew from CVB kicked off a planting project on February 26. Part of our vision is to provide groups and community team with ornamental plants to be grown along the public road where there is space.

At present, other cleaning groups have expressed that they are ready to take part in

the project starting on Weno Island. This will be part of our Love Your Village focus.

With permission from the Honorable Governor Alexander R. Narruhn, CVB intends to put up a nursery for ornamental plants at government land in Nantaku. With help from the Department of Public Safety inmates we will complete cleaning of the area on March 1. The FSM/Chuuk Forest Stewardship Project is also providing guidance.

In Their Own Words.....

(we follow discussions amongst divers in the Truk Lagoon Facebook Page. Part of an exchange below on February 24)

Michael Jerry Fallis

I'm taking my first trip to Truk in November. I'll be on the Pacific Master livaboard. Any advice from you Truk veterans? Flying in from Colorado staying 2 days in Tokyo and 1 day in Guam prior to my Truk arrival.

Tash Scott

I am here right now on the master boat!! We did 2 nights in Guam and we were still exhausted by the time we got to the boat. When you land in Chuuk the team meet you and drop you at Truk stop until the boat transfer at 4ish. There is a shop which is pretty well stocked on the island so if you forget anything like toiletries you can get it here quite cheap. Don't underestimate how exhausting the travel is. There are a few flights a day into Guam so if your luggage doesn't make it it probs will in the next flight. The United flight to Chuuk is quick. We were business class which makes it easier on the luggage more than anything.

Tash Scott It is a labor of love. Now fly to Yap for giant Mantas. Did a week in Palau. Week in Chuuk. Week in Yap. Tired oh ya

Angela Cc

It's important to stay hydrated, especially during dives. Drink plenty of water and avoid excessive alcohol consumption the night before diving.

Pascal Theriault

At the blue lagoon resort, the ham is canned food. Too salty. Go for eggs, fish, frozen vegetables. Also, bring a few basic space parts.

Michael Hands

Whilst Truk is an amazing place to dive the wrecks and explore the island, don't underestimate how amazing Guam is, we visited from Australia on our way to Truk and had an awesome time there

Pita Pia Tesa

It'll be the most beautiful adventure you'll ever have. The people are genuinely helpful, the island is beautifully green, and the water will be in your mind for many years to come. Have fun when you're there and don't forget to say "Rananim!"



Huge thank you to Chairman Arthur Irons II, House of Representatives, Committee on Resources and Development for dropping in at the CVB office at the airport on February 22 to express support and discuss a number of possibilities. Chairman Irons is keen on supporting a request being entertained with a number of Members, which relates to the possibility to increase amounts earmarked for "tourism development" from Departure Fees. At present, travelers are required to pay \$30.00 to Chuuk Treasury as departure fees prior to leaving. Out of this amount, \$1.00 is set aside by law for tourism programs. Chairman Irons is willing to work with other law makers to increase this amount from \$1.00. We thank him and his colleagues for sharing ideas.

