



HERSTORY MADE: Dr. MARGARITA CHOLYMAI AT CSSS



The long wait on confirming a new director for the Chuuk State School System (or the Department of Education) came to an end late December when the Senate confirmed the nomination of Dr. Margarita Cholymay. Madame Dr. Cholymay has been a tireless educator in Chuuk for years, to say the least.

Dr. Cholymay graduated from the Pacific Studies Program at the University of Hawaii at Manoa around Christmas time 2012 where she got her doctorate. Exactly ten years later, on the heels of the 2022 Christmas Season, she assumed the directorship role.

Dr. Cholymay hails from Losap Island in the Mortlocks region. She has been a resident of Weno Island for a long time, home-place of her husband, Deacon Eliot Cholymay.

CHUUK VISITORS BUREAU NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In early November, the Board of Directors of the Chuuk Visitors Bureau approved Mr. Marcellus Akapito as the new Executive Director, replacing Mr. Douglas Marar who has picked up a post with the Chuuk State Legislature. Mr. Akapito served in that capacity at the Chuuk Conservation Society the past six years. He also had held managerial role at the FSM Public Information Office with the Office of the FSM President from 2011 to 2015. Prior to that, he had held jobs with the Saramen Chuuk Academy, 1995-2001 and the College of Micronesia-FSM Chuuk Campus from 2003 to 2008.



A STUDY ON CHARTERED FLIGHTS IN CHUUK AND YAP

Chuuk State turned to Airbiz to do a feasibility study on Chartered Flight as a means to improving economic standard with emphasis on



tourism sector enhancement. Airbiz is a world company that specializes in aviation consultancy. The study had been done in 2019. However, as with many things during the Covid19 pandemic, other works regarding the study had been put on hold. Now that the FSM has lifted the travel restriction, CVB looks to move on pending part of the study involving Airbiz. The study is envisioned to guide leadership decision and strategies for tourism sector enhancement through policy reforms in air access services in the long term and related areas. As part of the contract with Airbiz, the second phase of this project will focus on further stakeholders engagement in order to determine ways to put into policy and action the various findings and recommendations emphasized.

For inquiry, you may call our office at 330-4133, or email any of: markapito@gmail.com or nely.mori@gmail.com, or visit us in person, 2nd Floor Chuuk International Airport Terminal Building.

Acting Chief Justice Jason Robert elevated as Chief Justice, Chuuk State Supreme Court



Mr. Jason Robert became an Associate Justice at the Chuuk State Supreme Court as of June, 2013. A graduate of Xavier High School class of 1994, Mr. Robert pursued college education at the Chaminade University of Honolulu from 1994 to 1998 where he got his Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice Pre-law. In 2007, he got his Bachelor of Law from the University of the South Pacific in Port Vila, Vanuatu.

After the passing of the late Chief Justice Honorable Repeat Samuel, Justice Robert assumed the role of Acting Chief Justice. About one week before the end of 2022, he got elevated to the highest post at the Judiciary Branch when the Chuuk State Legislature, House of Senate, confirmed his nomination on December 22. Mr. Robert, hailed from Peniesene Village on Weno Island, is probably the youngest to ever assume the CJ post in the FSM.



Australia Ambassador Cowley visited Chuuk State in December, 2022

Her Excellency Jo Cowley is the Ambassador of Australia in FSM. During her official visit to Chuuk last month, she graciously made time to stop by at the Chuuk Visitors Bureau office. According to her biography on an Australian Government page, *Ms Cowley is a senior career officer with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and most recently was Assistant Secretary, Scholarships and Alumni Branch. She has previously served overseas in New Zealand and Italy and in Canberra has led work on Pacific strategy, security cooperation and partnerships with Pacific island countries.* Kinissou Chapur Ambassador Cowley for visiting us. We hope to reciprocate the visit in the near future primarily for tourism

Nely and Jed at PATA Micronesia Meeting in Guam



Founded in Honolulu in 1951, the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) is an international, non-profit membership organization whose mission is to contribute to the growth, value and quality of travel and tourism to and within the Pacific-Asia area on behalf of its members. Today, PATA is a global organization, covering over one third of the globe and represented through dozens of regional and satellite chapters. The PATA Micronesia Chapter was established in 1986 as a result of increasing tourism interests within the region. Its mission is "to assist in the development of our regional tourism industry with strategies that are environmentally sensitive, respect Micronesian cultures, adhere to high operational standards and provide opportunity for education, training and gainful employment among the resident populations of our Micronesian membership". These goals will be accomplished through the cohesive cooperation and active participation of all its members.

Rekki Chuuk Christmas and New Year Greetings



The Honorable Governor Alexander R. Narruhn and the Honorable Lt. Governor Mekioshy William jointly wish the people of Chuuk a Season of Happiness and Good Health, capping 2022

and unfolding 2023.

During his end-of-the-year meeting with Cabinet and staff of the Executive Branch, Governor Narruhn underscored his leadership emphasis based on loyalty and commitment. He also asked Department and Office heads to do their best, aiming for development and services outcomes in line with the administration's over-all theme as visibly express during the inauguration ceremony captioned in MANEN WISET.

Rekki Chuuk also visited in-patients at Chuuk Hospital on December 23 and did a Christmas and New Year Parade on December 31, 2022.

First Secretary Kuniuo Suenaga's surprise visit at CVB Office



Mr. Kuniuo Suenaga, First Secretary at the FSM Embassy in Tokyo, dropped in at the CVB Office on November 28, 2022. This was an unplanned event. Less than two weeks ear-

lier, he contacted the office with inquiry regarding in-bound visitors. Kinissou Kuniuo for visiting us.

*Congratulations ngeni ekkewe
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Christmas Break Basketball*