



FSM JOINT COMMITTEE ON COMPACT RENEGOTIATION AND PLANNING INTERFACED WITH CHUUK STATE LEADERSHIP



On January 21, 2023, the FSM Joint Committee on Compact Renegotiation and Planning (JCCRP) held a meeting with Leaders from Chuuk at the Governor's Auditorium. The FSM party was headed by Mr. Leo Falcam Jr., Chief Negotiator, along with Mr. Asterio Takesy, Mr. Epel Ilon, and a legal aid staff.

Governor Alexander R. Narruhn, House Speaker Danny Lester Mersai, and Senate Vice President Wisney Nakayama made themselves available for the meeting.

In general, the committee wanted the time to assure Chuuk Leaders that the negotiation for "compact three", as others would call it, has been in progress with officials from the United States who are led by Special Presidential Envoy Ambassador Joseph Yun. Mr. Falcam emphasized that both the FSM and US negotiators would like to define the underpinning principles and basis for negotiation based on the challenges and achievements of the previous two Compact versions as well as their related subsidiary agreements.

Governor Narruhn stressed Chuuk's preference that the new compact define targeted assistance for municipal governments provides for itself an implementation procedure in which the integrity and sovereignty of both parties are well regarded.

According to the FSM Embassy in Washington DC, "The Compact of Free Association is key to the important and ongoing relationship between the FSM and the U.S., and contributes to the peace, security, and prosperity of the greater Indo-Pacific region".

In addressing the visiting party, Speaker Mersai expressed appreciation for the opportunity to hear from and interact with members of the JCCRP in the context of providing activity updates.

VISITORS WANT DIVERSE ACTIVITIES AND ISLAND TOURS



When it comes to exploring a new place, visitors do expect more from their host. That was the case with the visiting father and son from Russia who were in Chuuk from February 2nd to 5th. Prior to arriving in Chuuk, they made sure the Chuuk Visitors Bureau had made links with accommodation and tour

operators so that their stay in Chuuk would be eventful. CVB staff ended up doing the land tour to Xavier High School and the Lighthouse in Sapuk on February 3rd. The next day, Nely and Jed took the pair out to Pisar. They enjoyed the magnificent Pisar environment for the whole day.

Chuuk needs skillful tour providers for both ocean side and land-based sight-seeing, apart from wreck diving.

CHUUK STATE NEW CHIEF JUSTICE TAKES OATH OF OFFICE

On the 27th of January, Mr. Jayson Robert took the oath of office to become the Chief Justice at the Chuuk State Supreme Court.

Chief Justice Robert hails from the island of Kuttu in the Mortlocks and the village of Peniesene on Weno Island.

After finishing from Xavier High School in 1994, he enrolled at the Chaminade University of Honolulu where he got his Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice, Prelaw. In 2007 he got his Bachelor of Law from the University of the South Pacific in Port Villa, in Vanuatu.

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.



These are two live-aboard boats that have been bringing tourists to Chuuk. On the right is the Pacific Masters. On the left is the Odyssey. When you see them around close to your island or anywhere in the lagoon, know that there are off-island visitors on board who are in Chuuk for diving and enjoyment.



HOSPITAL WARDS UPGRADE AND RENOVATION COMPLETED: GOV. NARRUHN GRACED THE FACILITY OPENING



The Outpatient unit, the Record Room, the Emergency Room, the Maternity unit (OB/GYN), the Pediatric Ward, and the Medical Ward, have all been under repair and upgrade for several months. At the end of January and early February, the contractors completed their tasks, allowing Governor Alexander R. Narruhn to hold an opening function with officials from the Department of Health Services and other community and public sector stakeholders.

Community members and health officials observed that these renovated facilities are very good and are ready to support the operation of the hospital for consumers' benefit.

It is everyone's hope that the conditions at these facilities are maintained well and that the general public treat these facilities with "tender, loving care".

For information on the hospital improvement, please contact the Dept. of Health Services.

2023 Finance Officers Conference in FSM

The FSM finance conference was held in Pohnpei from January 24 to 27. CVB staff members Nely Mori Ruben and Jedidiah Hainrick were among those from various departments and offices who saw the need to attend the conference. The conference's main sector focus included Tourism, Fisheries, and Agriculture/Food Security.

The FSM Division of Budget also did a workshop on populating the Project Control Document template, which many participants found useful. At the end of the conference, a new Financial Management roadmap was launched to improve control on use of public funds.



CONSTRUCTION FOR THREE NEW DISPENSARIES IN CHUUK NOW UNDERWAY



Construction of five lagoon dispensaries were first conceived in 2010, with PMU, FSM as the Implementation Agency for overseeing their design and construction. Twelve long years of wait finally ended on October 21, 2022, when T. H. Governor Narruhn signed contracts for construction of three dispensaries at Romanum, Fonoton and Ununo, Fefen. Contracts were awarded to J&B Dealers, Latitude Seven Construction and GEMVJ respectively, all local contractors. These are Compact funded projects, out of the eighteen dispensaries approved by JEMCO. Two more dispensaries, at Parem and Sapore have been bid out recently. The dispensaries have been designed by Beca, NZ, approved by USACE and are being implemented by Chuuk PMO.

(In the photo, T.H. Governor Narruhn, Other Leaders, Members of the Cabinet, PMO, and Contractors. The article is provided by PMO.)

The Federated States of Micronesia and the United States of America Sign Memorandum of Understanding



WASHINGTON, DC— The Government of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and the Government of the United States of America signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Friday, February 10th, affirming our close and continuing partnership and reflecting our consensus reached on levels and kinds of future U.S. financial assistance to be provided in the next Compact assistance period.

U.S. Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular & International Affairs, Carmen G. Cantor, signed the Memorandum for the United States and Jackson T. Soram, Deputy Chief of Mission of the FSM Embassy in Washington, signed for the FSM. Other FSM and U.S. officials attended the signing at the Department of Interior.

The Memorandum of Understanding was signed as part of ongoing negotiations on key documents in the FSM-U.S. relationship and confirms our shared vision for a strengthened and lasting partnership that will continue to benefit both nations and the entire Pacific region.

The FSM and the U.S. are working diligently to reach agreement on other key aspects of our bilateral relationship, including mutually agreeable texts for the Federal Programs and Services Agreement, the Fiscal Procedures Agreement, and the Compact Trust Fund Agreement.

Our nations continue to work toward agreement on the final Compact package to be submitted to our respective legislative bodies for consideration in the near future.

(In the above photo, FSM Deputy Chief of Mission Jackson T. Soram and U.S. Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs Carmen G. Cantor shake hands at the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding in Washington D.C. The article is taken from the FSM Information Services published on February 11.)