

THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK BOARD OF DIRECTORS HOLD MEETING IN FSM STATE OF CHUUK



Arriving at Chuuk International Airport on March 23, the eight-member Asian Development Bank (ADB) Board of Directors held a brief meeting with Mr. Eugene Amor, FSM Secretary of Finance and Administration at the airport arrival VIP room. Their first contact with Chuuk community was the welcome dance at the arrival hall done by the Pollap Island community residing on Weno Island. After a brief courtesy call on the Honorable Mekioshy William, L.T. Governor of Chuuk, a fine welcome reception was held in the evening at the Truk Stop Hotel and Restaurant compound in honor of the guests for whom this was their first physical experience of Chuuk's surrounding and culture.

Key planners and agencies at the FSM National Government and Chuuk State had been heavily involved in joint coordination efforts prior to the arrival of the team to ensure they were accorded proper care and that their working-visit would be a purposeful success.

Their busy itinerary and agenda after their briefing with the FSM Secretary of Finance included interacting with the Executive and Legislative Branches; meeting with top officials at the Chuuk State Hospital; briefing by the FSM Project Management Unit for infrastructure development; meeting with the Chamber of Commerce; meeting with the Chuuk Public Utility Corporation; visiting Xavier High School for private school observation; and a whole-day visit to Tonoas Island. The Tonoas portion covered witnessing the Vital Energy development; interaction with staff and students at Sino Memorial School for public school observation; and interacting with the Tonoas Municipal Government officials with a lunch treat at their office.



ADB Board with Sino Memorial School students, Tonoas Island, Chuuk.



ADB Board with Xavier High School students, Weno Island, Chuuk.

Chuuk Islands EXPO ChuukApe Chuuk 2023.... Put your community on Chuuk Map.... Take part in showing pride... Kiich meinisin sipwe pwarano ach weweiti me aucheani nonnomun fonuach non unusen kinikinin Chuuk, fonuen Pattiw, Weito, Paafeng, Mortlocks, Lukeisel, Faichuk me Namoneas, non amwaraaren masowen oreniach mi neoto.

PROJECT RECOVER IN CHUUK LAGOON: AMERICANS MISSING IN ACTION (POW) SINCE FEBRUARY 1944 WWII



A sophisticated team of archaeologists and historians have been engaged in searching for Americans classified “missing in action” since the second world war with the mission to return them home.

In his April 14 briefing to The Honorable Mekioshy William, L.T. Governor of Chuuk State, lead historian Dr. Colin Colbourn recalled that Project Recover has done explorations in Chuuk Lagoon starting in 2018.

The Covid-19 pandemic interrupted their work. However, the team has returned to their Chuuk Lagoon search, landing in early April with a broadcasting crew from the Discovery Channel.

According to Dr. Colbourn, their sea-bottom search, community interviews, and long term wartime literature research put the number of American MIAs in Chuuk over two hundred. And, they have located three American war planes at the bottom of the lagoon, only a fraction of the number of crafts believe to have been sunk there.

Ultimately, the team has a mission of repatriating American soldiers’ remains to their families.

Project Recover brought with them a plaque dedicated to American MIAs and POWs in Chuuk, which the State Government has agreed to monumentalize at a proper public location. The unveiling of the plaque took place in the late afternoon of April 15 at the Blue Lagoon Resort ocean-side compound (left photo).

CCS AND PPAC EXTEND SUPPORT TO DISADVANTAGED FARMERS THROUGH A HUMAN RIGHTS PROJECT GRANTS



The Pacific People Advancing Change (PPAC) program of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) has provided some funds to the Chuuk Conservation Society (CCS) in support of women farmers, senior farmers, and farmers with a disability in Chuuk. The project is being piloted among willing participants in communities on Weno, Fefen, and Oneisomw. Among the objectives of the project are the need to direct technical and financial assistance to the farmers and raise awareness among policy makers to “level the field” to ALL farmers. A common urgent need raised at the April 7 meeting at L5 Hotel (photo above) concerned access to basic tools. The farmers have agreed to form a network with open option for their peers in other parts of Chuuk to join.

SOME ONLINE REQUESTS FOR CVB

It is not unusual for the Chuuk Visitors Bureau to often get inquiries and requests from individuals and groups around the world through internet and phone calls. For the past month:

- The Seoul Broadcasting Systems (SBS) in Korea wants assistance to get out to Pollap Island for a project.
- A group from the Pacific Country of Nauru wants to trace their ancestors’ inheritance on the island of Tol. They claim some Nauruans were relocated to a community in Tol during the Japanese time.
- A man in Australia would like to visit the Mortlock islands. Reason? His last name is Mortlock. So, he is curious about the Mortlock islands.
- A company in Australia reached us via telephone wanting to get a hold of a Chuuk company regarding rice order from Australia.

CHUUK ISC TRACK CHAMPIONSHIP



The secondary schools in Chuuk have started their annual track events. They had their mile relay race last Saturday. This morning the road marasong took place. The rest of the events will follow on Thursday and Friday, April 20-21.

Arguably, this is the biggest athletics event in the FSM based on number of schools and students participation. It is the most fun school sport festivity in the region.

FSM CIA FLY MORTLOCKS’ HORIZON



The Caroline Islands Air (CIA), wings of the FSM, has resumed services to TA Island in the Mortlocks via center island of Weno after some inactive Moment.

CIA announced on March 24 the addition of a 06-05FM craft to its fleet which would undertake flights to Pingelap, Mwokil, and Sapwuahfik in Pohnpei and TA Island in the Mortlocks.

