



CPUC RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT ON WENO ISLAND



The Chuuk Public Utility Corporation's Regional Utility Division visited a few villages on Weno the week of April 24, like for instance, starting with Sapuk, Wichap and Epinup, to do assessment on renewable energy projects for potential solar and battery sites for residences that do

not have electricity yet. The team will continue doing the assessment until the project is complete covering residences that are off the electrical grid.

(The article is taken from CPUC Media staff post on Facebook on April 24)

CCS, PPAC HIGHLIGHT HUMAN RIGHTS FOR FARMERS



The Pacific People Advancing Change (PPAC) program of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) has funded a pilot project focusing on women farmers and farmers with disability in Chuuk implemented by the Chuuk Conservation Society (CCS) and the Chuuk Department of Agriculture.

ment of Agriculture.

On April 25, project staff had the privilege of interacting with the Chuuk Legislature House of Representatives Committee on Resources and Development Chairman T.H. Arty Irons and Vice Chairman T.H. Timothy Ruda in the presence of the Honorable Danny Lester Mersai, Speaker of the House.

Mayor Gradvin Aisek of Tonoas Island meets with CVB



The Honorable Gradvin Aisek, mayor of Tonoas Island and also the owner of the Blue Lagoon Resort and Dive Center graciously spent time with Marz Akapito, Executive Director of Chuuk Visitors Bureaus (CVB) on April 01 at the BLR restaurant.

Mayor Aisek noted some good signs of business growth as Chuuk and Micronesia deepens the opening of borders after the Covid-19 lockdown and movement restrictions. In his view, Chuuk communities and businesses are slowly coming out of the effects of regression and burdens

associated with the world-wide Covid-19 pandemic and local government's public health and social restrictions that put business on a stand-still.

At their sit-down, Mayor Aisek and Director Akapito explored ways for collaboration between CVB and the business community, as well as his Tonoas Municipal Government in the context of tourism development. They also looked at a number of impediments in terms of airport clearance, lodging and accommodation, attraction site access, and infrastructure conditions.

Culture celebration and events the past three months



From the month of March to late April, schools in Chuuk, including the College of Micronesia-FSM, Chuuk Campus have been holding their annual culture celebrations and related programs. Over the years, the schools

have elevated the significance of holding such celebration to counter the erosion of cultural values seen in the attitude and behavior of the younger generation. Some of the older generation and senior community members have noticed the loss of competencies in land and reef-based responsibilities that the youth no longer care for.

Sometimes, school events get spoiled when weather conditions worsen. That is not the case with the Saramen Chuuk Academy Culture Day this year. The flooded school grounds turned into an ocean scene as students refused to give in to the heavy rain and simply made the best of the situation.

Both the House of Senate and the House of Representatives, Chuuk State Seventeenth Legislature, have held committee hearings with the Chuuk Visitors Bureau Executive Director regarding a small project proposal under compact sector grants put forth to the United States Office of Insular Affairs, Department of the Interior. CVB is proposing to use an amount of approximately \$90,000.00 from Compact Sector grants in order to develop the following: 1) Community Awareness and Education on Visitor Friendly Approach Toward Tourism Related Activities; 2) Institutional and Human Resources Capacity Building and Training; 3) Development of Nature-based Tourism Attraction Products; 4) Development of Digital Resources for Significant Cultural and Historical Sites.

This grants will enable strong collaboration between CVB, the Division of Commerce and Industry, Protected Areas, Municipal Governments, as well as resources owners whose properties may be involved in the project.

Chuuk State Little League Baseball off to a good start



Tryout for the summer little league baseball started on April 23 at the Andersen Field with the support of the Chuuk Baseball Association and assistance from the FSM National Olympic Committee. Technical trainers were on the field from both sport bodies to assist Chuuk youth and their team coaches with skills development and building enthusiasm for the long-inactive sport. Governor Narruhn has added zeal and personally pushes for this sport to be played by Chuuk youth. He was also on the field, accepting equipment from FSMNOC.

Island fashion proudly displayed by students at HCC

The We Are Oceania network in Honolulu recently recognized members and leaders of the Micronesia Wayfinders student club at the Honolulu Community College (HCC).



Mrs. Jocelyn Howard, CEO of the WAO organization said of the student club, "We want to recognize Davis Martin for his leadership in creating and leading this awesome club. It creates an empowering way for Micronesian students at HCC to explore their strengths, roles, and ways for inclusiveness where they feel they belong and have a very meaningful experiences during their studies at the school".

CVB shares the feeling with WAO in recognizing students with their creativity and leadership, especially when they involve showing pride in home fashion and way of living. Kudos!



Hyperbaric Chamber operator course held on Weno Island, Chuuk

On April 17, a week-long training for operators of the hyperbaric chamber was organized for the benefit of dive center staff and service relating to the safety of divers. Thanks to Mr. Michael Gerken of the Odyssey for posting photos and reporting on the much needed training.

According to Mr. Nikiti Buliche from Blue Lagoon Resort, around 12 trainees benefited from the course, drawing together staff from the Odyssey, the Blue Lagoon Resort and Dive Center, a couple of nurses from Chuuk State Hospital, etc.

In many instances, according to Mr. Buliche, off island divers first want to be sure that Chuuk has such chamber before committing to a travel and diving plan.

Mr. Buliche emphasizes that Chuuk should invest in such technology and ensure the capacity of local operators to boost confidence and safety.

Chuuk EXPO planners meet with participants

About two weeks ahead of the Chuuk EXPO main event, planners sat down with representatives of some of the participating groups and vendors at Truk Stop. They looked through logistical needs and previewed components of each of the two days to be ready with their parts. Present at the meeting from community groups were Mr. Theo Lokopwe from the Pollap youth dancers, Mr. Pichiosy Nika from Nukuno Organization, Mr. Thomson Simi from Inaka Organization, Mr. Take Mori from John's Design and Print, and Mr. Isuen Lukas from CB radio Ki Pwe Ran.



Ambassador Lippwe pays courtesy call on Governor Narruhn, Weno Island

FSM Ambassador to the United Nations, His Excellency Jeem S. Lippwe, paid a courtesy call on The Honorable Governor Alexander R. Narruhn on the 3rd of May.

According to information from the Governor's Office, the visiting dignitary brought information with him relating to an assistance from the Government of Italy in solar energy infrastructure. This assistance was initiated in previous years but got halted due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

It is also reported that the honorable Governor is considering to direct part of this assistance to augment electricity sourcing at the Iras Demo School and the Sapuk Elementary School.

Governor Narruhn expressed "kinissou chapur" to the Government of Italy.

For further information, please contact the Governor's Office Information Staff.

