

RECOMMENDATION 8 (FROM FOCUSED MIDTERM REPORT) AND RECOMMENDATION 2 (FROM JUNE 2006 COMMISSION ACTION LETTER): SECURE PERMANENT CAMPUS FOR CHUUK

- *The college must make significant progress in securing the Chuuk High School campus as the site for COM-FSM's permanent Chuuk state campus or, it is unable to within its deadline of 2008, find another acceptable site.*

With regard to Recommendation 8 above, the Commission asks that COM-FSM provide an update on the new plans to build Chuuk state campus on a location that had been previously declared "unbuildable."

Resolution

In the letter to President Spensin James date June 30, 2009, President of the ACCJC Dr. Barbara A. Beno stated "The Commission took action to accept the report and notes that the final resolution of the Chuuk site is still pending. The commission therefore requires the College of Micronesia-FSM to report on the resolution of the Chuuk site issue including the implementation of a reliable power source for that site, within its Self Study Report".

Following the visit by Vice Chairperson Floyd Takeuchi on April 21 & 22, 2009, the college continued to improve and cleared the access road to the Nantaku site where the board of regions selected to be the permanent site for the Chuuk Campus. The project was ceased temporarily due to difficulty in obtaining reliable road construction equipment thus requiring the college purchased an excavator which arrived in Chuuk on September 28, 2009. On October 12, the project resumed with clearing of shrubs and trees from where the new road will be located. The project is expected to be completed with coral top finish with road side drainage system by November 2009.

The power supply in Chuuk has been unstable for many years. This problem consists of management of the corporation, land issues, political pressures and issues that combined to complicate matters even more. It finally leads to a stage where most major enterprises have installed their own power generation system. The college adopted the concept and purchased and installed a 300KW generator to add on to its 90 KW unit and was commissioned on Oct. 12, supplying the whole campus with power with half its capacity. The 90KW unit will be relocated to the new power house and modified to a three phase system to act as the standby generator while the 300KW becomes the prime generating unit.

Delegates of the college including President Spensin James, Vice President of Administrative Services Joseph Habuchmai, and Chuuk Campus Director Joakim Peter met with the leadership of Chuuk State on government August 10-12, to express the concern over the unreliability of power supply to the current campus site. Following the meeting the college requested a supplemental budget of \$212,000 to provide consistent power to campus through self generation. A deadline of October was set for the Chuuk State to act on the request while the college establish an ad hoc committee to develop a contingency plans in the event matter do not progress as anticipated. In addition to the funding issues the CPUC acting general manager has informed the college that it has modified its power distribution switch-off locations to reduce the college from being cut-off.

The ad hoc committee has met several times to and reviewed the draft budget for self power generation and revised the budget based on more accurate information which reduced the level of subsidy required to \$78,000 per annum. With this amount the ad hoc committee believed that by redirecting its priorities and streamlining of operations can accommodate the amount needed.

Analysis

Commission's Recommendation #8 relating to Chuuk Permanent site, Commissioner Floyd Takeuchi stated that that the college has also met this recommendation.