

## Brief Report

01/04/15

Shoji Sato

This is to report to you my activities on behalf of the Friends of COM-FSM, Inc. in 2014.

1. **Sophia University President and other officials' visit to the FSM**

I had accompanied Prof. Takashi Hayashita, President of Sophia University, Prof. Hiroshi Yamamoto, President of Sophia University Junior College (SUJC) and other official to visit the FSM from August 20th to 23rd. That was my initiative to establish a new collaborative relationship between the College of Micronesia-FSM (COM-FSM) and Sophia University / SUJC. I also successfully persuaded President Hayashita to confirm the university's plan to confer an honorary doctorate degree on President Mori in recognition of his strong leadership in deepening further the bilateral relations between Japan and the FSM.

2. **Visits to Reitaku University and Aichi Konan Junior College**

I accompanied President Daisy of COM-FSM and Mr. Mike Rota to visit Reitaku University in Chiba Prefecture on October 30<sup>th</sup>, and Aichi Konan Junior College in Aichi Prefecture on October 31<sup>st</sup>.

During my discussion with President Osamu Nakayama of Reitaku University when we were invited to dinner by Ambassador Peter Sato on October 30, we agreed to study further a possibility of much closer collaboration between COM-FSM and Reitaku University. I suggested to him 2-1-2 program, with which a Micronesia student studies two years Japanese language course at COM-FSM, one year intensive language course and two years Bachelor degree course at Reitaku University. If we secure to cover living costs for a COM-FSM student, my impression is that they may offer a scholarship for one plus two years study at Reitaku University.

3. **Honorary Doctorate for President Mori**

Sophia University awarded honorary doctorate to President Mori on November 5. I have persuaded Sophia to expand relations with Micronesia in the past years, accepting graduates from Xavier High School in Micronesia as Sophia's students according to a priority-admission agreement. They also decided, as I mentioned below, to sign an agreement with the College of Micronesia –FSM to start academic

exchanges. These are all my efforts to strengthen a closer relationship between the College of Micronesia-FSM and Sophia University.

4. **MOU between COM-FSM and Sophia University / SUJC.**

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between COM-FSM and Sophia University / SUJC will allow students from SUJC to take an English language course at COM-FSM and learn from the rich cultures and history of Micronesia. This is potentially promising financially for the Friends Foundation. The MOU was signed by three presidents at Sophia University on November 5<sup>th</sup>, and was witnessed by President Mori. I played a key role in drafting the MOU and arranging the signing ceremony.

5. **Rotary Club Scholarship Offer**

One of Tokyo Rotary Clubs offered to me two \$30,000 post-graduate scholarships, and I advised President Daisy to accept it on November. I already discussed with Sophia University, and they have agreed to offer a non-degree research student program in which students with a degree can study under a teaching adviser for a year.

A positive response will be expected from COM-FSM.