

MESEISET

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POLITICAL STATUS TALKS: **VOTE “NO” ON INDEPENDENCE**

Vote “no” on the Chuuk republic plebiscite on Election Day, March 3, advised FSM President Man-ny Mori. He presented his viewpoint at a public



meeting on Monday, February 9, at the Student Center crowded with staff, faculty, and students, including a good number of external stakeholders.

According to President Mori, the plebiscite is a choice between two options: “yes” for a politically separate and independent Republic of Chuuk, and “no” for continued reliance on Compact Two funding by remaining as a state in the FSM. He further explained that, in recent years, both Pohnpei and Yap considered going separate from the FSM as well but found the pathway toward separation to be difficult, if not impossi-

ble, to follow. Both FSM states then discontinued such consideration.

In addition, the Chuuk State Political Status Commission (CSPSC) has only confused many Chuukese citizens, leading them toward “osupwang”, according to the President. He said that CSPSC’s timeline fails to give enough time to the Chuukese to understand the pros and cons of setting up a republic. Such failure, including lack of planning, leads to “danger, danger, danger” with a “yes” vote.

[NOTE: For more background information, please read pages 11-12.]

The President’s entourage at our February 9th meeting included Joses Gallen, Marion Henry, Patrick MacKenzie, James Naich, Fabian Nimea, Lorin Robert, Vita Skilling,

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GLOBAL WARMING CONTINUES

The topic of global warming continues in this issue. Part One was presented in the last issue of Meseiset (dated January 28). Part Two (articles on ocean acidification by Scolastica Patis and Ermilio Aapwil and on island-sinking by Justin Utha) is on pages 3-4 of this issue. Φ

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MESEISET DISCLAIMER POLICY

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Chuuk Campus News

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

LOLITA RAGUS



for coordinating and presenting the local-food cooking/video demonstrations at the All-Campus Meetings. Keep up the outstanding direct student service from our Chuuk Campus CRE to everyone.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

ERMILIO AAPWIL



for serving as an all-around model of solid integrity, forthright openness, and quiet leadership for other students to emulate. Continue to inspire peers to achieve student success.

Delicious Sweet Potato Leaves!

If you did not attend the last All-Campus Meeting on February 11, you are a loser. A few CRE staff — including Lolita Ragus, Hattie Raisom, and cooking experts — presented lessons on sweet potato leaves. Plus, most of the meeting participants enjoyed samples of cooked sweet potato leaves as well as a special drink — sweet potato lemonade juice. Fantastic!

(continued on page 7)



Management Council: What's That?

Management Council (MC) — that's what! Yes, but what is it?

Chuuk Campus has a Management Council, a campus committee, which reviews COM-FSM policies and discusses how the three departments (Administration, Instruction, and Student Services) should provide services to students. CRE and SBA also participate actively in the Council.

MC members are, as follows: Kind Kanto (Chairman), Marie Mori-Pitiol, Ben Akkin, Mariano Marcus, Kersweet Eria, Roger Arnold, Memorina Yesiki, Mike Abbe, Ray Chiwi, and Alton Higashi (Secretary). They meet once a month, usually the last Wednesday of each month. The last meeting was held January 28. Their next meeting will be on February 25.

At the January 28th meeting, the Council discussed campus-wide fund-raising activities, repair and maintenance on campus, review of SBA budget/activities, and inventory of Chuukese traditional cultural artifacts.

For more information, ask any Management Council member. Φ

OCEAN ACIDIFICATION: WHAT IS HAPPENING?

THE CAUSE: Part I

by Scolastica Patis

What exactly is ocean acidification? We find a definition in chemistry: “too much carbonic acid (H_2CO_3) when carbon dioxide (CO_2) dissolves in ocean water (H_2O)”. In other words, $\text{CO}_2 + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{H}_2\text{CO}_3$.

Next, global warming means that there is too much CO_2 in the world’s atmosphere. An Internet source states, “*Ocean acidification [happens] because of the increased level of CO_2 in the atmosphere....Almost half of the CO_2 added to the atmosphere is absorbed by the ocean.*”

So what? So, now, according to many Internet sources, the ocean is definitely becoming more acidic. Here is what science editor Brendan Buhler said in an article entitled “Apocalypse Later” in California Magazine (Summer 2014): “*The oceans...are growing warmer and more acidic*”.

Again, so what? According to the same Internet source above, when CO_2 levels in the ocean increase, “*This in turn increases the rate at which calcium carbonate dissolves in sea water and constitutes a threat to organisms which produce shells such as corals.*” What shells? Corals, lobsters, and crabs. In other words, ocean acidification dissolves the shells of lobsters and crabs and kills coral reefs. That is what! Φ

Photo Description: Here is what happens when coral skeleton is put into acidic water due to ocean acidification. The coral begins to dissolve and die. That is what happens when ocean acidification slowly dissolves the shells of corals, lobsters, and crabs.



Encarta Encyclopedia, Charles D. Winters/Photo Researchers, Inc.

THE EFFECT: Part II

by Ermilio Aapwil

The ocean is a symbolic homage of our own survival. Ocean acidification will destroy that reverence and respect.

First, ocean acidification is one cause of destruction of coral reefs and death of their fish populations. Ask any Chuukese over 60 years old, and he will tell you nightmarish tales of the slow but steady decline in reef fish populations. Long ago fish populations were plentiful, and fish sizes were big. Nowadays, fish populations have become scarce, and fish size is shrinking. The old people’s reminiscent testimonies go on and on.

If sharks do not bite us in the behind, ocean acidification will.

To be sure, we do not eat coral, but we depend on sea creatures that depend on coral. When coral reefs slowly disappear, so will our reef fish and other sea creatures on the reefs.

Second, we talk a great deal about depending more on local ocean resources. We can talk all that we want to, but, if we do nothing to stop the danger in ocean acidification, our talk is useless when our reef resources disappear.

Talk is cheap. What we need right now is firm action against people, industries, and nations that produce too much CO_2 in the atmosphere. Who are these people and industries? They are, of course, oil billionaires and fossil-fuel producers. When we burn fossil fuels, such as petroleum (gasoline, kerosene, diesel oil), coal, and natural gas, we pump more and more CO_2 into the atmosphere. What nations produce the most fossil fuels? The United States and China produce 47% of all fossil-fuel carbon emissions into the atmosphere. These two nations produce almost half of the CO_2 !

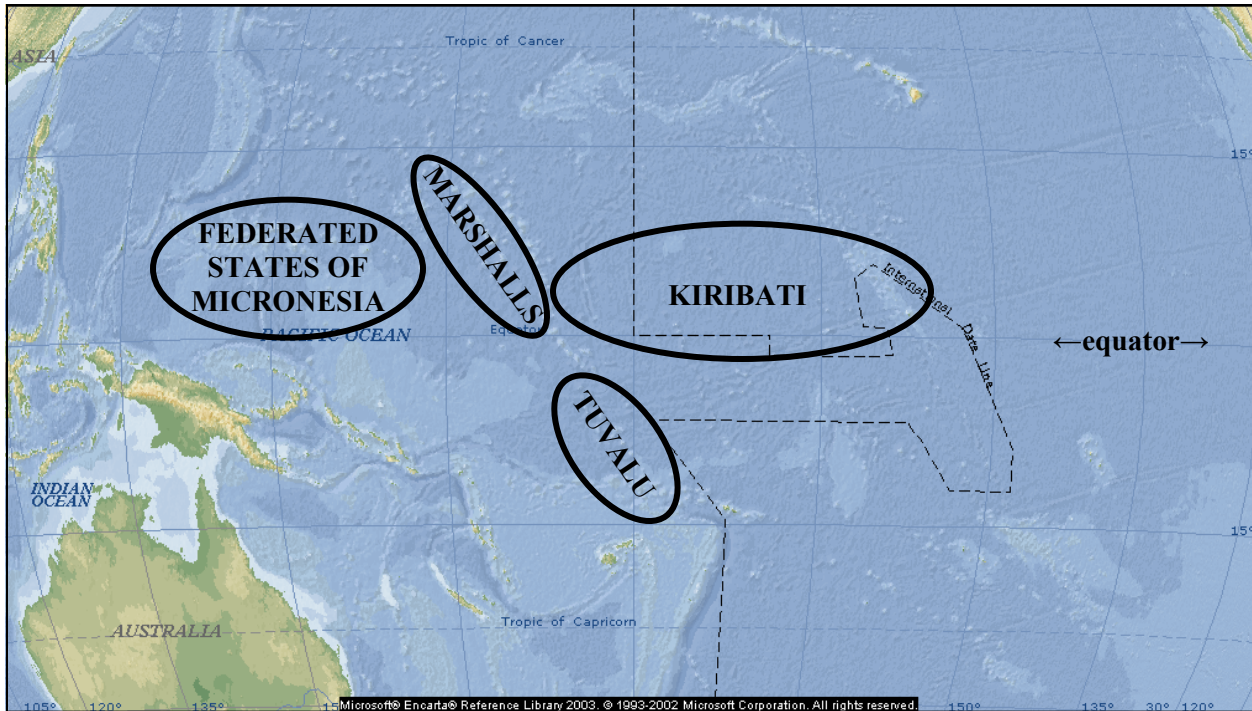
We need alternate energy sources, such as solar energy, wind energy, tidal energy. These alternate sources do not produce CO_2 . Not only in Chuuk but also throughout the world, we must think alternate energy and throw away our dependence on fossil fuels.

Ask our Chuuk Campus instructors to sponsor classroom-learning projects in practical topics such as biodiversity and sustainability. Learn as much as possible in order to become pro-active in protecting our coral reef ecosystems. Φ

ISLAND-SINKING IN THE PACIFIC

by Justin Utha

Get ready, people! Ready for what? Island-sinking, of course! It has already begun in the Pacific. Look at the map below. Tuvalu was the first, followed by Kiribati, and soon Marshalls. Our beloved FSM is next, and Chuuk is part of the island-sinking in the next 20-30 years. Already a few atolls in Chuuk have begun sinking — Lower Mortlocks.



According to Microsoft Encarta Reference Library 2003: *“Like other low-lying Pacific countries, Tuvalu has expressed concern that sea levels could rise as a result of global warming. The United Nations listed Tuvalu as among the nations most at risk of complete submersion due to global warming.”* In other words, “complete submersion” means that the entire nation of atolls will be underwater in this 21st century. This is no joke at all.

The i-Kiribati people are worried. Look at the three photos of their home islands. They built seawalls 20 years ago — to no avail. The crashing waves are rising higher and higher now. Also, high-tide water from underground floods their homes twice a day. They have no way to stop their islands from sinking. They need help desperately to save themselves.

The Marshalls are now beginning to sink, followed by the FSM, including our Chuuk. Are we ready for the inevitable? I say that we should get ready — now — and fight this problem. ☹



MY PERSONAL PHILOSOPHY, by John Phiach

TOPIC = THE SEARCH FOR KNOWLEDGE

The study of philosophy takes the student into three areas: metaphysics, epistemology, and axiology. My personal philosophy stresses epistemology, or the sources of knowledge. We learn that there are only four sources of knowledge: empiricism, logic and reasoning, intuition, and undisputed authority. The first two sources are associated with anthropology and science, and the second two sources are associated with theology and religion.

Finally, my personal philosophy examines a phenomenon called “island-sinking” as it applies to the State of Chuuk, or more specifically the atolls of the Mortlock Islands.

METAPHYSICS (Ontology)

- Anthropology
- Theology

There was a debate in the late 20th century about whether global warming was real or not.⁽¹⁾ Today, in the 21st century, the debate has decreased a lot – except maybe in the Mortlocks. Global warming is real, including sea-level rising and island-sinking. For instance, three nations with atolls – Kiribati, Tuvalu, and Marshalls – have acknowledged that their low islands are already sinking, that their citizens must migrate away in the next 20-30 years. Next to sink will be the atolls of our FSM nation, including the Mortlocks.

The problem is that many Mortlockese do not believe at all that their islands will sink. Their one and only argument comes from Genesis 9:11-15 in the Holy Bible. It is the story of Noah and the Ark, as well as God’s promise not to bring another flood “to destroy the earth” and “to destroy all flesh”. Too many Mortlockese still believe that flooding and island-sinking are synonyms, and so they believe that their islands will not sink due to global warming. God’s promise seems to justify these synonyms.

EPISTEMOLOGY (Sources of Knowledge)

- Empiricism
- Logic and Reasoning
- Intuition
- Undisputed Authority

It is absolutely essential that we understand flooding and island-sinking – by understanding science and religion at the same time. This kind of understanding is what Italian philosopher and Catholic priest Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274) advised – that to know anything we need to understand the subject by using all four epistemological sources: empiricism, logic and reasoning, intuition, and undisputed authority. My personal philosophy follows Aquinas’ advice.



Aquinas

First, in the year 2007, the United Nations’ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reported that global warming, including island-sinking, is 100% real. The IPCC report was reviewed and approved by more than 1,500 scientists throughout the world. No one today should doubt this kind of scientific knowledge. Second, the governments of Kiribati, Tuvalu, and Marshalls have already announced that their atolls are, in fact, sinking. We should not doubt this

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⁽¹⁾ John Hart, “Global Warming”, Microsoft Encarta Reference Library 2003.

MY PERSONAL PHILOSOPHY *(continued from page 5)*

truth as well. Third, we should study floods in the world. The worst flood in recorded history was in August 1931 when 3,700,000 Chinese people died in the Huang He River flood.⁽²⁾ For hundreds of years before 1931 and for more years after that, floods have occurred on earth. These floods have never destroyed the entire earth and all its inhabitants. Fourth, maybe we should define a flood: *“to cover a previously dry area with large amounts of water for a period of time”*.⁽³⁾

In other words, a flood is a temporary event. On the other hand, island-sinking is not going to cover the Mortlocks temporarily. It will be a permanent coverage! So, no, there will be no more flooding in the Mortlocks, but the atolls will be submerged completely.

AXIOLOGY

- Ethics
- Aesthetics

I strongly believe that many Mortlockese do not and cannot integrate both scientific knowledge and religious knowledge. It is not wrong to believe in religious knowledge, but that would only be half of what we should believe. Island-sinking is a fatal issue, not a fake event.

I have entitled my personal philosophy “The Search for Knowledge” because I want people to think as much as possible. To be sure, we have learned a lot from our own culture and from our Christian religion. That is good, of course; however, we must open our minds to other ways of thinking and learning. Just as we have changed our traditional culture to modern ways, we still need to change the way we think and learn from and about religion. I do not challenge Genesis 9:11-15 at all. I do believe that the earth will never again experience an all-out flood. Also, since Genesis 9:11-15 does not discuss island-sinking, we can accept from “undisputed authority” (i.e., the Holy Bible) the idea of flooding but not the idea of island-sinking. The idea of island-sinking comes from science, and that is the source of knowledge which we must accept and integrate into what we already believe in the undisputed authority. As far as I am concerned, science and religion are two bonded partners in our search for knowledge.

Value Systems

- (1) flooding and island-sinking
- (2) science and religion

Let us not exaggerate one source of knowledge over another. Take science and religion as equal partners. Φ

⁽²⁾U.S. National Weather Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), U.S. Department of Commerce, “Meteorology”, The World Almanac and Book of Facts 2013 (New York, NY: Infobase Learning, World Almanac Books, 2012), p. 328.

⁽³⁾Encarta Dictionary Tools.

10x10 WORD SEARCH #1 by ArtRay Irons and Jonvan Kanto

K	I	S	S	P	A	N	I	S	H
S	O	K	E	H	S	S	E	D	S
L	F	R	R	K	W	T	L	N	I
K	A	E	O	N	A	C	S	A	L
A	M	L	T	R	L	T	D	L	B
C	I	P	I	N	U	P	O	S	A
H	L	I	V	N	H	N	O	I	T
A	Y	E	N	O	M	A	G	U	S
U	E	C	A	R	O	L	I	N	E
E	S	E	S	N	O	S	A	E	R

There are 23 words, each with 5-10 letters. Find and circle all 23 words:

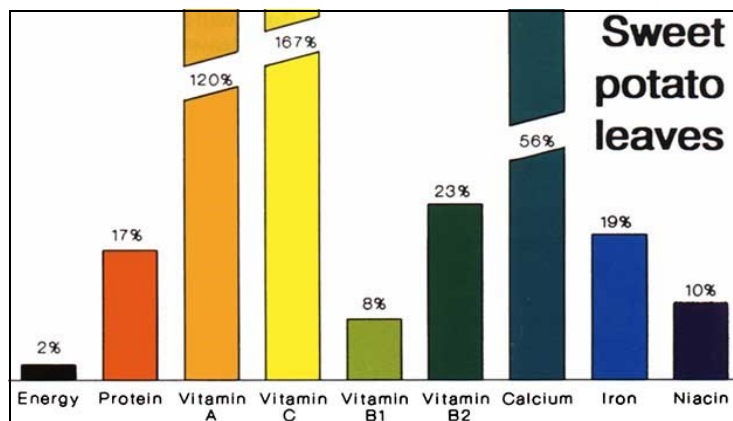
BALSA
CANOE
CAROLINE
CLEAN
ESTABLISH
FAMILY
GOODS
ISLANDS
KACHAU
KOROR
LALIN
MAGUS
MONEY
ORUNG
PIECE
RATES
REASONS
SANVITORES
SOKEHS
SOPUNIPI
SPANISH
TAKES
WALUH

SWEET POTATO LEAVES (continued from page 2)

Sweet potato is also known, in Chuuk, as “kémwu”. It is “camote” in the Philippines, Mexico, and other countries in Latin America. Its scientific name is “Ipomoea batatas Lam”. And remember — it is different from yam (eep, kááp). All the same, sweet potato leaves have extraordinary nutritional values, as shown in the chart below.

That is why we should eat them. That is why CRE’s staff prepared delicious sweet potato leaves for us to eat at the All-Campus Meeting on Wednesday, February 4.

CRE submitted recipes for cooking sweet potato leaves. Read one recipe on page 8 and try it out at home. Φ



10x10 WORD SEARCH #2 by Marty Martin and Chrismatina Masawa

A	M	E	R	I	C	A	N	M	B
A	I	W	O	L	E	A	I	A	N
I	V	S	S	S	A	K	B	G	O
S	P	I	E	I	S	E	K	E	I
E	T	P	E	N	L	B	U	L	T
N	A	A	A	T	O	U	U	L	A
Y	O	G	H	R	N	R	H	A	R
L	T	U	N	I	S	A	C	N	G
O	A	E	O	O	T	O	M	I	I
P	O	N	D	E	T	I	N	U	M

There are 20 words, each with 5-10 letters. Find and circle all 20 words:

AMERICAN
 BABELTHUAP
 BEKAA
 BORNEO
 CHUUK
 EISEK
 MAGELLAN
 MICRONESIA
 MIGRATION
 PARSON
 POLYNESIA
 SILUH
 TAHITI
 TAOTAO
 TONGA
 UNION
 UNITED
 VIETNAM
 WOLEAIAN
 YAPESE

RECIPE: SWEET POTATO GREENS WITH COCONUT MILK

Ingredients:

- 2 bunches sweet potato stems, leaves, and tops
- 1 can, or 1 cup, coconut milk
- 1 finely chopped large onion
- 2-3 pieces of lime (or 7-10 pieces of calamansi)
- salt and pepper to taste



Procedure:

- Rinse and clean the sweet potato stems, leaves, and tops.
 - Cut stems and boil them in water for 10-15 minutes or until tender.
 - Set aside the leaves and tops.
 - Remove the boiled stems and put them immediately into cold water to stop cooking.
 - Cut cooked stems into one-inch long pieces.
 - Saute onion under medium heat in a little oil until transparent.
 - Add cooked stems to the onions.
 - Afterward, add coconut milk to onion and stems and simmer for 5-10 minutes.
 - Add the leaves and tops into the simmering coconut milk.
 - Add salt and pepper to taste.
 - Add and mix lime or calamansi after cooking several minutes.
- [Optional: add minced shallots, minced clove garlic, minced fresh ginger root, ground turmeric, sliced small hot pepper, sliced lemon grass stalk, and/or soy sauce to taste.]

I AM GOOD FOR YOU!

HEAD CABBAGE

by Jefferson Teruo

(1) I am Head Cabbage. I am round like an orange.



(2) I am a vegetable — or a veggie.



(3) Chuukese love my kimchi.



(4) I have two relatives — Chinese Cabbage and Red Cabbage.



Chinese Cabbage

Red Cabbage

(5) Children love to play with me. Φ



VOTE “NO” ON INDEPENDENCE *(continued from page 1)*

and Andrew Yatilmai. In particular, Joses Gallen, formerly Chuuk State Attorney General and currently FSM Deputy Attorney General, addressed a question, “*Can an FSM state secede from the FSM?*” His answer was a qualified “No.” He explained the following:

In 1975 these islands, politically known as the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (TTPI), had a Constitutional Convention (ConCon) at which a draft constitution was written by delegates from the six districts of Northern Marianas, Palau, Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Marshalls. The ConCon pledged a binding commitment to national unity, clarifying that differences among the six districts strengthened the unity. After three years of a TTPI-sponsored program called “Education for Self-Government” (or ESG), a referendum was held in July 1978 to ratify the constitution, or not. Palau and Marshalls voted “no” and proceeded to negotiate for a political status separate from the remaining four districts (Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae). In Chuuk, the vote was 70% “yes” to be part of a united FSM.

The newly approved national constitution (1978) did not provide for any state to secede. Therefore, according to Gallen, the FSM National Constitution must be amended by at least 75% of FSM voters, in order to validate the CSPSC’s effort to allow Chuuk to secede from the FSM. How long will it take for the FSM Congress to approve a resolution for any state to secede? Gallen did not say, but it is quite apparent that it will take more than two years — after the CSPSC’s timeline to “declare independence” in 2017. It is therefore irrational to believe that any Chuukese plan to secede by 2017 can succeed.

President Mori’s strongest criticism of CSPSC activities came near the end of our meeting. He called the CSPSC “bogus” in trying to convince Chuukese to vote “yes”. By definition, “bogus” means fake, deceitful, dishonest, fraudulent, bad, useless. Very strong criticism indeed. Φ



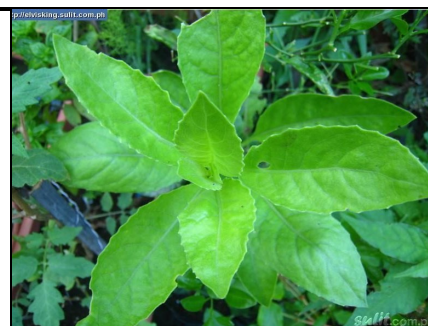
THERE’S A NEW KID IN TOWN

His name is Ashitaba (アシタバ). His nickname is “Tomorrow Leaf”. Actually, it is not a person; it is a plant, which now grows in Chuuk.

Look at the pictures (right). Use the stem and leaves to cook with rice, and you have a fantastic meal. Eat it cooked or raw. Eat it daily.

According to various Internet sources, ashitaba was first eaten in Japan more than 2,000 years ago. It is, in fact, endemic to the Pacific island of Hachijō-jima. It had (and, of course, still has) value as nutritious food and as unbelievable medicine. It is considered today to be in the top 1% best of all foods eaten by humans in the world.

An interesting fact is that the people of Hachijō-jima eat ashitaba daily and maintain the world’s longest average lifespan. In other words, they live a long life. Maybe that is why ashitaba is also known as a “longevity herb”. Φ



MORE COMMENTS ON CHUUK REPUBLIC MOVEMENT

[Editor's Note: To assist in clarifying the political issues surrounding the plebiscite vote on March 3, the following comments are herewith stated. Eligible Chuukese voters will answer "yes" or "no" on the March 3 ballot: "*Ka tipe-ew an Chuuk epwe imwusen FSM an epwe utá won muun (independence)?*" Now, read the comments below.]

(1) Chuuk State Political Status Commission (November 22-24, 2014)

Chuuk State Attorney General Sabino Asor, representing the CSPSC, presented an overview of public hearing response from Chuukese citizens in Honolulu and Hilo, Hawaii. His comments below have been taken out of context, but the gist of his ideas is clear.

"I personally am beginning to wonder whether we have a duty to extend the proposed March 2015 referendum to these Chuukese now living in the United States, or should we just hold it in Chuuk. I am confident that because they were accepted into the US before a Chuuk Independence, the US Constitution will protect them from having to be deported en masse, even if Chuuk has voted to secede from and become independent on its own. If they ever want to come back to visit during our Independent Chuuk, they are always welcome as families. But this is my own individual question in my mind."



(2) Sabino's Rebuttal to Anti-Secessionist Chuukese (January 27, 2015)

Sabino challenged (on the Micronesia Forum website) FSM President Manny Mori and others who in November 2014 criticized the Chuuk Republic movement. The President had proposed a hypothetical question "...that the US will interrogate Chuuk about past use of funds in order for the US to agree to a separate Compact with Chuuk." Sabino countered that the US will not question Chuuk about any mismanagement of Compact funds: "*The US realizes that past mismanagement of funds is all water under the bridge.*" Then, Sabino added:

"The fact is, based on preliminary unofficial dialogue with US Embassy officials, the US is willing to enter into a separate Compact of Free Association with Chuuk if and when Chuuk secedes from the FSM."

(3) U.S. Ambassador Rosen's Statement of Denial (January 28, 2015)

The next day (January 28) U.S. Ambassador Doria Rosen denied any relationship between Chuuk and America, as claimed above by Sabino:

"I am the United States Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia, and as President Obama's personal representative, I am responsible for the relations between the US and the FSM through its national government. If anyone claims that they are having discussions regarding Chuuk's separation from the FSM with the United States government, it is without my knowledge or sanction. There have been no discussions between the Chuuk Political Status Commission and U.S. government officials."



(4) Jim Stoval's Comments: "Compact Implications of Chuuk Secession" (January 27, 2015)

U.S. attorney Jim Stoval of Washington, D.C., is a legal consultant for the FSM National Government. He wrote the following memorandum to FSM President Manny Mori:

In the upcoming March elections there will be a proposition on the ballot in the State of Chuuk for voters to indicate yes or no on Chuuk's secession from the FSM. This Memorandum examines how provisions of the Compact impact this situation.

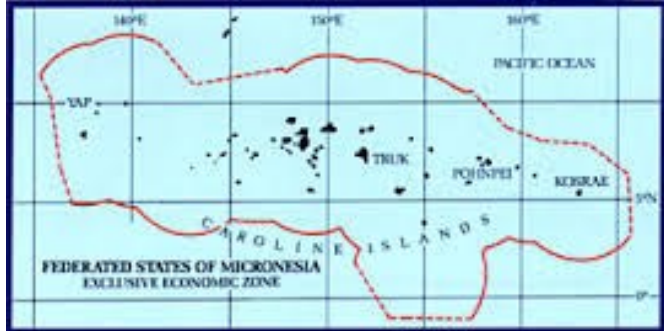
A State-appointed Commission in Chuuk has worked on this for the last two years. According to the plan, if the referendum proposition passes, the Chuuk Legislature will pass a law forming a Constitutional Convention leading to formal secession sometime in 2017. The Commission has issued a Final Report, along with earlier information papers.

(continued on page 12)

JIM STOVAL'S COMMENTS *(continued from page 11)*

1. FACT: The Compact will terminate automatically for Chuuk at the moment of secession from the FSM.

The Compact is a treaty between the Government of the US and the Government of the FSM. Title Four, Article VI, Section 461, defines the term, "Government of the Federated States of Micronesia" as "including all the political subdivisions and entities comprising that Government." Were Chuuk to secede from the FSM, it would no longer be one of the entities "comprising that Government," and no longer a part of the Compact in any way. The Compact is not a separate and divisible agreement with every State and local entity; it is a treaty with the FSMG. Absent that, the new Government of the Republic of Chuuk has no relationship whatever with the United States, subject to what it may wish to, or be able to negotiate.



2. FACT: Compact funding to former Chuuk State would not transfer to the Republic of Chuuk.

This would be an automatic consequence of the fact that the Republic of Chuuk is not a party to the Compact. Any changes to the Compact funding structure or amount would require US Congress legislation.

3. FACT: U.S. Federal Programs in Chuuk pursuant to the Compact would be withdrawn.

This, also, is because federal programs must be specifically authorized by US law, and these are either specifically provided by the Compact, or otherwise specifically extended to FSM by law. Chuuk would no longer be included within the definition of "Federated States of Micronesia." Therefore, all US programs, including those in education (Pell Grant, among others) and health, postal, weather, telecommunications, emergency and disaster assistance, FAA, CAB, and FDIC would disappear.

4. FACT: Compact immigration status of Chuuk citizens in the U.S. would terminate automatically, upon secession.

The privileges referred to above, which include the right to work, study and reside in the US, are provided by Title One, Article IV of the Compact. Since the Compact would no longer apply to citizens of the new Republic of Chuuk, they would all find themselves without status in the US and be forced to depart. Former Chuukese holding US citizenship (FSM does not recognize dual citizenship) would not be subject to deportation.

5. FACT: Title Three of the Compact, delegation of security and defense rights to the U.S., would no longer apply in the territory of the new Republic of Chuuk.

The delegation of the sovereign responsibility for security and defense made in the Compact by FSM to US and in the standby Mutual Defense Treaty, would no longer apply to the new Republic of Chuuk. It would be up to the new government of the Republic of Chuuk either to provide for its own security or negotiate security relationships with others. The value of such rights for Chuuk alone, in 2015, is not known.

6. FACT: Chuuk's entitlement, if any, to assets of the Compact Trust Fund would be difficult and time-consuming to quantify.

The Compact Trust Fund Agreement would no longer apply to Chuuk. The Agreement makes no allocation of Trust Fund assets among the States and no provision for partial liquidation. So, if the Republic of Chuuk would have any entitlement at all, it would require complex discussions between the United States, the FSM, and the new Republic of Chuuk that would take some significant amount of time. Implementation of any result would require US and FSM legislation.

7. FACT: A variety of benefits extended to FSM not in the Compact but in US Public Law 108-188 (The Amended Compact Act) would no longer be extended to Chuuk.

These would include things like the Investment Development Fund (IDF), EDA, USDA, RUS, Commerce Department, Small Business Administration, Labor (Job Corps), and various programs in marine resource development.

8. FACT: Negotiations by a new Republic of Chuuk for a separate relationship with the United States and with other countries would be time-consuming, based on past experience.

It took from 1969 through 1982 to negotiate the original Compact, and from 1981 through 1985, to negotiate the various programs and services agreements. All the while, the TTPI apparatus remained in place and functioning. After TTPI termination, FSM could rely on Compact income while it pursued its various foreign relations. Similarly, during the four-year period of negotiations for the Amended Compact FSM had assured Compact funding. In light of that, one must ask whether the schedule posited by the Chuuk Commission (2017) is achievable given all the things listed above that will cease to apply on the day of secession. The new Republic of Chuuk will require an unbroken income stream from and after 2017. Φ

CAMPUS PHOTOS:

SC 130 (Physical Science) Students Experiment with Gravity



SC 130 students do their experimental thing with gravity on Saturday — guys climb, gals stand below, in good Chuukese culture. Oops! That may be true — generally — but Anna proves otherwise, as she joins John high above ground. Then, what is Tezzlof doing, just standing around with the ladies and advising them how to vote in the March 3rd plebiscite on Chuuk secession?

Photo Credit: Lynn Sipenuk

ACCREDITATION QUIZ

(last issue, January 28, 2015)

Wow! Meseiset sponsored an "Accreditation Quiz" in the last issue (Vol. 4, No. 2, January 28), and absolutely NO student took the quiz. What a bunch of Chuuk Campus banana-nasi!

COM-FSM falls under the aegis of WASC's Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC). ACCJC requires us to know, understand, and apply four Standards to promote student success, academic quality, institutional integrity, and excellence. The Standards are, as follows:

- **Standard I: Mission, Academic Quality and Institutional Effectiveness, and Integrity;**
- **Standard II: Student Learning Programs and Support Services;**
- **Standard III: Resources (human, physical, technology, and financial); and**
- **Standard IV: Leadership and Governance.**

Come on, students! Get to know the COM-FSM system. Whatever "student success" may mean to COM-FSM faculty and staff, you should have your own definition — and let us hope that it includes "study hard and graduate".

STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE

COM-FSM recently established a new system-wide Committee on Student Success. Dean Kind Kanto has already submitted names of Chuuk Campus personnel to represent our campus on this new committee. They are Ben Bambo, Sr., (instruction) and Wilson Bisalen (student services).

The initial purpose of the committee will be to pursue excellence in student success and will develop a balance between "access and success" with appropriate career pathways for learners. Φ

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