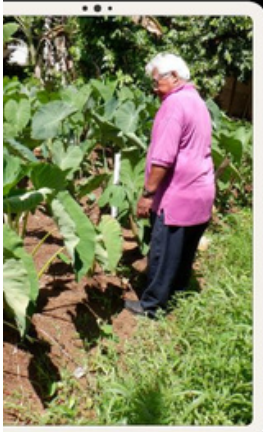
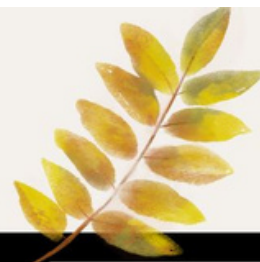




CRE NEWSLETTER

Cooperative Research & Extension (CRE)



A COMPONENT OF COM-FSM LAND GRANT PROGRAM

What's INSIDE

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The Cooperative Research and Extension (CRE) program promotes agricultural development in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), typically training approximately a hundred students per year across the four states of the FSM, plus several times that number of agriculture students in other programs the college offers. Computing resources are only available to these students at their respective campuses during hours of operation. Their ability to make progress will be improved if the college can establish a laptop rental program at each site to serve these students. The program will be sustainable, paying for replacement computers with a nominal fee each semester. The Micronesia Grows Technology project is for funds to purchase these computers and administer the rental programs, plus extra monies to pay for students and faculty to develop a few high-need online resources: websites for public education, videos and text materials as part of the distance education offerings that the new computer resources will facilitate. The ability to do distance education coursework with this technology will ensure the agricultural extension students have the tools they need to succeed in the extension program and beyond, and will support progress in the agricultural sector.

Student Life Office Successfully Staged Induction of Officers & Welcome Ceremony 2023

On September 29, 2023, Student Life office organized the Induction of Officers & Welcome Ceremony. It was held at the CTEC gymnasium. It was participated by newly elected Student Body Association (SBA) officers and freshmen from National and Pohnpei campuses.

The even started by reading the COM-FSM mission statement led by Rafael Rempis. It was followed by the welcome remarks of Hosty Alexander, Pohnpei campus SBA President, and Vince Joy Perman, National campus SBA President. Hosty expressed his gratitude for electing him as the new President and promised to work closely with Student Life office to get all the students engaged and involved in student-led events.

The event also introduced new set of peer coaches, and the different clubs/organizations of COM-FSM. It was highly anticipated by the different clubs composed of ACE, SOKO, MSO, KSO, PSO, Nukap, Moju, Nett/Kosrae, and Nursing Student organization, among others. Each clubs prepared a presentation highlighting their culture and tradition through dancing and singing. The freshmen didn't shy away in performing their hearts out and showcasing their talents. The new officers also showed their dancing skills and proved their leadership skills.

A sumptuous dinner was served prior to the clubs performances. It was followed by an inspirational message by Phyllis Silbanuz, Dean, Pohnpei campus. She expressed her gratitude to the Student Life office for a successful event. She also encouraged the freshmen to be actively involved in student activities and enjoy their campus life. The event ended with closing remarks from Crystal Jackson-Joab, Student Life Coordinator. She reminded the students of the upcoming events and thanked the team for the successful event.

The event was organized by Crystal Jackson-Joab, Student Life Coordinator, with much appreciation from the Student Life staff and new set of officers.



Students, Faculty & Staff at Student Hall



Students during the Induction of Officers



Freshmen during the Welcome Ceremony



COLLEGE OF
MICRONESIA-FSM

STUDENT BODY ASSOCIATION
(SBA) 2023-2024 OFFICERS

POSITIONS	CAMPUS	
	POHNPEI	NATIONAL
PRESIDENT	HOSTY ALEXANDER	VINCE JOY PERMAN
VICE-PRESIDENT	MAY WILLIAM	SHAQUILLE NIMEA
SECRETARY	LEAH BARNABAS	GENEVIE JOSEPH
TREASURER	JOANA AMYDA	JORDAN RANGPIY



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National Institute of Food and Agriculture
 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



UOG's Cooperative Extension & Outreach Service with the participants



Participants exploring the customized booth

CRE Coordinator and Staff Joins Farmer Focus Conference

In June 28, 2023, a national effort to help agricultural producers manage stress made its way to one of the Western- most areas of U.S.-affiliated farming soil: the state of Pohnpei in the Federated States of Micronesia. Some 25 agricultural producers, workers, and professionals took part in the Farmer Focus Conference on mental health at the College of Micronesia- FSM campus in Palikir.

“Farming is really high-risk work, and farmers do not really talk about their spirits too much, especially their stress level, so we really want to bring this awareness to our region,” said Dr. Kuan- Ju Chen, an agricultural economist and lead of the Farmer Focus Project at the University of Guam.

The Farmer Focus Project, part of UOG's Cooperative Extension & Outreach service, is a sub-grantee of the USDA- funded Western Region Agricultural Stress Assistance Program (WRASAP) at Washington State University and co- hosted the conference along with the extension service of COM-FSM.

Top stressors for FSM farm workers The conference featured customized content based on data released earlier this year by WRASAP on the top stressors in the agriculture profession in the four Micronesian island states.

The farm workers surveyed reported their top stressors as grief over the death of a loved one or friend, crop and plant diseases, and financial worries. For farmers/producers, the top stressors were crop and plant diseases, COVID-19, and family-related stress. The respondents also shared that they would find value in education related to financial management, nutrition/ cooking, and physical activity.

Customized to Pohnpei farmers' needs and interests The Farmer Focus Conference in Pohnpei was curated to address some of these topics of interest and to share local and online resources regarding stress and mental health in the agricultural community.

Attendees learned about indigenous ways of coping with stress from UOG's I'Pinangon Campus Suicide Prevention Program, using writing and stretching for stress relief, how to communicate their feelings to others, and how to make healthy recipes using locally available foods.

“The perception is that farmers stay really calm and cool, but in actuality, our farmers are more stressed than that,” said Don McMoran, who first envisioned and now leads WRASAP as the Skagit County extension director at WSU.

15 certified in Mental Health First Aid One day of the conference was a Mental Health First Aid certification course for extension and other professionals in the community who work directly with farmers. In the training, certified instructors taught 15 participants about risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems, crisis and suicide intervention skills, and self-care and referral resources.

Stay informed on future Farmer Focus events and resources by visiting [url. uog.edu/uogfarmerfocus](http://url.uog.edu/uogfarmerfocus) and following @uogfarmerfocus on Instagram or Facebook.

Task Force Koa Moana 23 Conducts Pest Control Training

On August 12, 2023, the navy medical officers with Task Force Koa Moana 23 provided training to strengthen Micronesia's capability to respond to outbreaks of pests that may transmit disease to humans.

The Pohnpei Environmental Protection Agency, Pohnpei Division of Public Health, and FSM National Environmental Health and Food Safety Program also took part in the training from 7-11 August in Kolonia, Pohnpei. In total, 28 participants took part in the training to calculate how much pesticides should be applied to certain areas to help protect the environment in FSM. They also learned how to protect the health of those applying pesticides while ensuring effective management of insects and rodents that may transmit disease.

The training was coordinated through the non-governmental organization, Pacific Island Health Officers Association (PIHOA), and LCDR James Harwood, Entomologist with Task Force Koa Moana, was one of the lead instructors for the course.

"The opportunity for TF Koa Moana to partner with PIHOA greatly improved our ability to support our government partners here in Pohnpei," said Harwood. The medical staff conducting the training said they wanted to ensure a clear understanding on the processes, policies, and requirements to apply chemical pesticides and implement integrated pest management programs throughout the communities in Pohnpei.

The same training is scheduled to take place in Yap and Kosrae later this year. "The combination of our efforts resulted in more realistic training scenarios and more relevant information to the Pacific Islands being presented," said Harwood. "It was a great opportunity for us to improve our interoperability and relationships among all our partners."



Pest Control Training Participants with Task Force Koa Moana

For questions regarding this release, please contact 1stLt Arthur Deal, USMC at arthur.deal@usmc.mil. Photos and videos will be made available for download and use via the Defense Visual Information Distribution System ([https:// www.dvidshub.net/feature/koamoana23](https://www.dvidshub.net/feature/koamoana23)).

COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA-FSM



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[Announcement] Freshman Orientation and Registration Schedules for National and CTEC Campuses

The National Campus Fall 2023 Orientation for new students is scheduled on August 3-4, 2023. The General Assembly and sign up for students starts at 8:30-9:00am on August 3, 2023 at the Practice Gym of the FSM-China Friendship Sports Center. Orientation program begins at 9:00 AM.

Special Registration for New Students

August 4, 2023

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Administration Building

Registration for Continuing and Returning Students

August 9-11, 2023

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Administration Building

For further or more Information see or call:

Office of Admissions, Records and Retention (OARR)

(691) 320-2480 extensions 133, 136, 137

Veterinary Clinic July 19-24, 2023

Dr Joseph and two nurses from Wise Owl Animal Hospital in Guam, plan to hold a veterinary clinic in Pohnpei July 19 to 24, 2023. conducting a spay and neuter clinic. The clinic will be open at the New Tokyo Medical College.



Why Spay and Neuter?

- o Reduce spraying and marking
- o Reduce roaming
- o Reduce aggression
- o Lower risk of cancers
- o Decrease over population
- o Increase lifespan up to 3-5 years

To be able to provide this subsidized service we need your donations of money, frequent flyer miles or offers to help at the clinic with washing and preparing animal bedding.

Where: New Tokyo Medical College
For an appointment:
Email: lisabarrow96941@gmail.com Or
kidoangoahng@gmail.com
Phone: 921 4928



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National Institute of Food and Agriculture
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The College of Micronesia Land Grant Meets in Koror, Palau

On Monday, August 21, and Tuesday, August 22, 2023, the College of Micronesia Land Grant (COM) Board of Regents met at Palau Community College (PCC) in Koror for their quarterly meeting. Led by the Chairman of the Board, Dr. Emais Roberts, the team engaged in discussions at the meeting, primarily focusing on improving food security and economic development in the three-member countries that are part of the COM system, namely the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), and the Republic of Palau (ROP).

The COM Board comprises three members, each representing the three-member countries. The current COM Board members include the Chairman, Dr. Emais Roberts, Governor of Peleliu, Palau (ROP), Vice-Chair Mrs. Suzanne Gallen (FSM), and Regent Honorable Wilbur Heine, the Minister of Education, Sports & Training (RMI).

The US Congress in 1980 designated the College of Micronesia (COM) as the land-grant college for the (former) Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. The COM's land-grant status was subsequently extended by each Compact of Free Association agreement between the three Freely Associated States (FAS), the RMI, FSM, ROP, and the US Government. The COM is often confused with the College of Micronesia-FSM (COM-FSM). The COM-FSM is an FSM higher education and tertiary education services provider. The COM focuses on land-grant and Cooperative Research & Extension (CRE) activities. The COM undertakes Research initiatives and activities to enable communities to practice sustainable and productive agriculture and aquaculture as part of an approved Plan of Work.

Participants at the Palau meeting included Dr. Irene Taafaki (President of the College of the Marshall Islands), Dr. Patrick Tellei (President of Palau Community College), and Dr. Theresa Koroivulaono (President of College of Micronesia-FSM). Along with them in attendance were the COM team members, including the three CRE Vice Presidents, each representing the three colleges: Stanley Lorennij, Vice President of CMI CRE Land-Grant, Steven Young Ukh, CRE Vice President, COM-FSM, and Dr. Christopher Kitalong, CRE Vice President, Palau Community College. Mr. Stanley Lorennij has been appointed as the new Executive Director of the COM. He will work out of the COM Central Office in Pohnpei, FSM. He will leave his current position at CMI CRE Majuro in early October to take up his new role. Land grant and CRE researchers, coordinators, extension agents, and assistants from the three colleges also participated in the meeting. Staff at the COM Central Office also helped coordinate the meeting with the Palauan hosts.

The three CRE Vice Presidents showcased ongoing research and extension programs in agriculture, aquaculture, and other areas by delivering reports and updates at the Palau meeting.



Left-right: Secretary/Treasurer RMI Regent Minister Wilbur Heine, COM-FSM President Theresa Koroivulaono, CMI President Irene Taafaki, Vice-Chairperson FSM Regent Suzanne Gallen, Chairman Palau Regent Governor Emais Roberts, and PCC President Patrick Tellei.



Participants of the COM Land Grant Board Meeting in Palau, August 21-22 were the members of the Board of Regents from RMI, FSM, and Palau, CMI President Irene Taafaki and her CRE/Land Grant staff, COM-FSM President Theresa Koroivulaono and her CRE/Land Grant staff, PCC President Patrick Tellei and her CRE/Land Grant staff.

ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2023, RITSUMEIKAN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS RECENTLY CONCLUDED THEIR TWO-WEEK VISIT TO THE COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA-FSM, CULMINATING IN A BRIEF MEETING AT THE OFFICE OF VICE PRESIDENT FOR INSTRUCTIONAL AFFAIRS (VPIA), DELIHNA EHME. VP EHME IMPARTED VALUABLE INSIGHTS TO THE VISITING RITSUMEIKAN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, OFFERING WORDS OF WISDOM AND PRESENTING THEM WITH PARATING TOKENS AS THEY PREPARE TO RETURN TO JAPAN.



ON SEPTEMBER 25, 2023, MR. IAN PERMAN PARTICIPATED IN SUMMER COURSES AT SOPHIA UNIVERSITY AS A PART OF HIS IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE INTO THE VIBRANT JAPANESE CULTURE. HIS ONE-MONTH STUDY TOUR HAS SIGNIFICANTLY ENRICHED HIS UNDERSTANDING OF CULTURES BEYOND HIS OWN. WE ANTICIPATE THAT THIS WILL SERVE AS A NOTEWORTHY PRECEDENT FOR FUTURE STUDENT-EXCHANGE COLLABORATIONS BETWEEN COM-FSM AND SOPHIA UNIVERSITY. WE EXTEND OUR GRATITUDE TO IAN FOR GENEROUSLY SHARING HIS VALUABLE EXPERIENCE.



NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC:

Notice that a public meeting for comments will be held to review College of Micronesia-FSM, Center for Entrepreneurship's plan to file an application for Federal Assistance for Hydroponic Greenhouse Project Supplemental Funding with the USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Grant program.

The public meeting will be held at 9:00 to 10:30 on October 9, 2023 at MITC.

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shares are
appreciated!
Thank you!

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National Institute of Food and Agriculture
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The Government of the Federated States of Micronesia
welcomes you to the
JOINT PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION 2023

His Excellency Wesley W. Jimina
President

The Honorable Aien B. Palik
Vice President



OUR UNITY IS OUR
STRENGTH AND PROSPERITY

&
the Leadership and Members of the
Twenty Third Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia



Interdenominational Service
Immaculate Heart of Mary
Seinwar, Kittu
July 25th | 10:00AM



Inauguration Ceremony
Capitol Complex
Palikir, Sokehs
July 26th | 10:00AM