



PATA MICRONESIA CHAPTER HOLDS FIRST TRI-ANNUAL MEETING IN KOROR SEEKING REGION-WIDE BOOST TO TOURISM



The Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Micronesia Chapter held the first of its tri-annual meetings this year in Koror, Palau from March 7 to 12. The Palau Visitors Authority did an excellent job in hosting the meeting under the leadership of Mr. Kadoi Ruluked with great support from his able team. Delegations represented their homes from the Marshall Islands, Pohnpei State, Chuuk State, Guam, and the host country of Palau. Besides witnessing significant tourist sites throughout Palau, the meeting also provided the opportunity for PATA Micronesia to consider impediments and rally commitment in support of a one MicrONesia marketing approach in boosting destination appeal globally together.

CVB's AKAPITO MEETS WITH THREE SUPER STARS IN PALAU



A humongous bonus for Executive Director Marz Akapito during his PATA trip to Palau in terms of the activities he was able to achieve. On March 9, occasioned by his visit to Dr. Patrick Tellei, President of the Palau Community College, Mr. Akapito also had the privilege of meeting, for the second time, His Excellency Surangel Whipps Jr. President of the Republic of Palau. President Whipps generously shared a few tips on ways the islands should collaborate on in order to create new pathways for tourism improvement in Micronesia.

Mr. Akapito also had the pleasure of meeting with Grand Master Navigator Sesario Sewralur who is leading the traditional navigation program at the Palau Community College and assisting maritime cultural activities in the country.

CVB Director Akapito also met with Dr. Tellei to observe the tourism programs and courses the college is offering to increase trained manpower in hospitality and other skills.

CVB is presently seeking funding options to initiate a canoe tradition program along with the Chuuk Division of Commerce and Industry under Chief Peter Aten.

MICRONESIA TOURISM STUDY TEAM EYE-BALLS CHUUK SITES



From February 28 to March 4, Mrs. Jennifer Davey and Ms. Josephine Chong from Horwath HTL Australia visited Chuuk. The team is on a mission to assess the tourism sector throughout Micronesia so as to determine specific assistance pathways that the ADB may prioritize and pursue for socio-economic assistance through tourism investment.

While in Chuuk, the team met with hotel operators, liveaboard boats, public officials, the tourism office, and businesses. At the end of their

study trip, they will compile their recommendations through a report. According to an online report by the bank:

To date, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has committed 66 public sector loans, grants, and technical assistance totaling \$187.8 million to the FSM. Cumulative loan and grant disbursements to the FSM amount to \$98.4 million. These were financed by regular and concessional ordinary capital resources, and the [Asian Development Fund](#), and other special funds. ADB's ongoing sovereign portfolio in the FSM includes 2 loans and 9 grants worth \$75.3 million.

FSM FOOD SECURITY WORKSHOP BRINGS TOGETHER MULTI-SECTOR PARTICIPANTS IN CHUUK



On February 27, the FSM Food Security Project Coordinator, Mr. Mark Kostka and Communication Officer, Ms. Luan Lavern Gilmete, along with Mrs. Menoleen Jacob, Assistant Secretary at the FSM Department of Resources and Development, held a day-long workshop for Chuuk stakeholders at the L5 Conference room. Some Chuuk farmers, market owners, members of the business sector, NGOs, department staff, and key government agencies relating to the production sector took time to attend the meeting. One key recommendation by the Food Security Project team is for farmers and policy makers to form the mechanism for farmers to unite and coordinate efforts through a united body. The Food Security Project has been hailed a game-changer for Climate-Smart Farming in FSM, targeting to assist some 9,000 farmers through a grant sourced by the Green Climate Fund and being managed by the Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT).

CHUUK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT TERMINAL UNDER REPAIR



You notice something different about the building? There are no more solar panels on the roof. That is because the Chuuk utilities company has removed them ahead of the start of the roof structure renovation. The building is under repair for its leaking roof

and the peeled tiles at many parts. We look to seeing some improvement, including the installation of conveyor belt at the baggage claim area in the near future. At present, we are seeing numbers in arrivals and many divers after the long Covid lockdown. An improved airport environment is what everybody needs, from visitors to residents alike.



8TH INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Organized by the Chuuk Women Council, many gathered on March 8 at the CWC office premises to highlight the significance of the day, which has been a hallmark activity for the women network group every year. Also in attendance were the Honorable Governor Alexander R. Naruhn and His Excellency Bishop Julio Angkel.

The CWC has been a prime mover for important changes in the community over the years, providing the atmosphere for women to collaborate in influencing change in Chuuk for women's health, gender equality, counseling, educational programs, natural resource care, environmental health, age of consent, as well as other research and learning projects.

Kinissou ngeni Mawe CKS ren om tong!

Huge Congratulations to the Saramen Chuuk Academy "He" Dolphins and "She" Dolphins for their superb achievement during the 2023 ISC Basketball Championship, capturing both titles.

CHUUK ISLAND FAIR WEEK..... WHEN?

Approaching March 31, FSM legal holiday for Culture Day. This year, Chuuk would like to hold a similar event, but not on this day. So when? A planning group is evaluating that question and waiting for the Governor to provide feed back to their suggest date— the month of May. The Department of Education has been tasked to come up with a logo for the event through school competition. CVB is responsible for event promotion and working with C&I on other planning aspects.

