



The National Union

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Palikir, Pohnpei, December 15, 1990

Number 15

FSM Telecom dedicates its new headquarters

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - Official opening of the new FSM Telecommunication facility located in Kolonia, Pohnpei was dedicated on the 7th of December. The dedication of the \$3.1 million-dollar Headquarter office building was attended by States and National officials, members of the Diplomatic Corps, distinguished visitors, traditional leaders and some 200 local people.

Following the welcome remarks

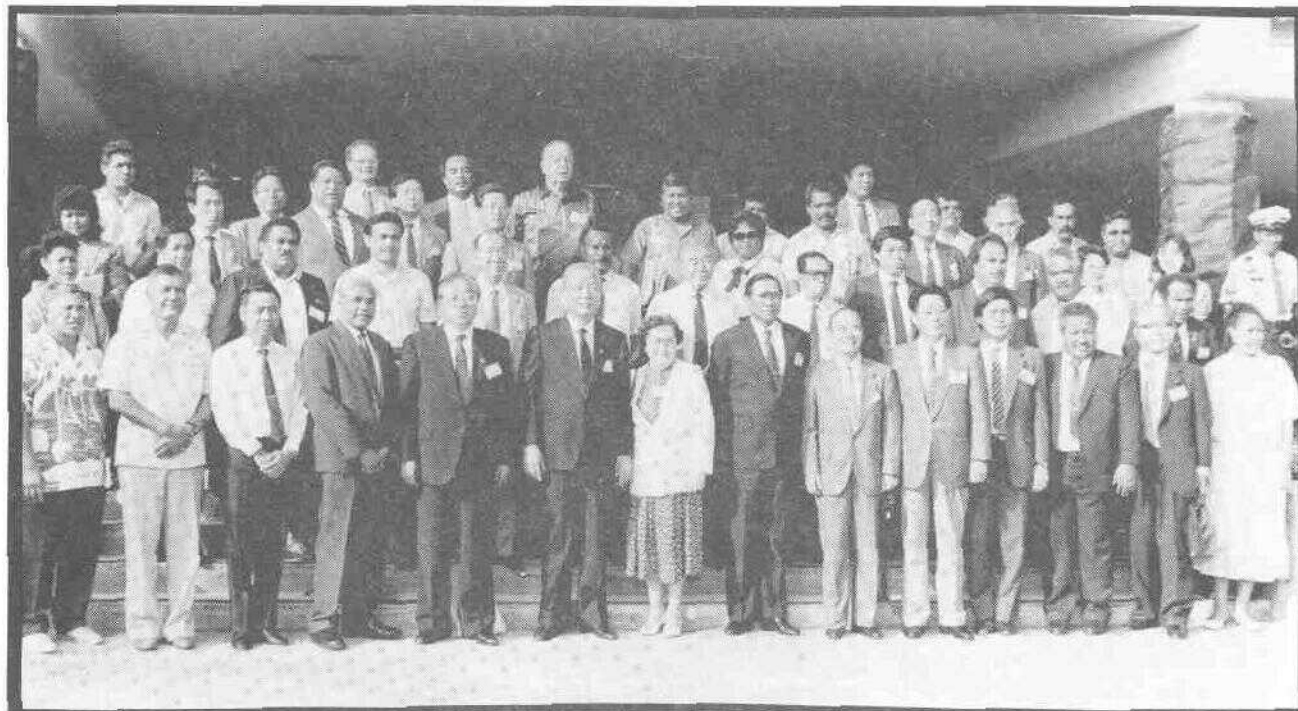
by FSM President John R. Haglelgam, Pohnpei State Governor Resio Moses, FSM Congress Speaker Jack Fritz, Nanmwarki of Kitti Penido Peter who spoke on behalf of Pohnpei's traditional leaders, and Chairman of the Telecom Board of Directors Kikuo Apis, was the ribbon cutting performed by the FSM's First Lady Paula Haglelgam, joined by Pohnpei State's First Lady Sue Moses, Mrs. Francy Fritz, Nahnkeniei Nett Margarette Iriarte

and Mrs. Merly Apis, followed by the tour of the new facility, culminating with refreshments of soft drinks and crackers.

The invocation was given by Fr. Curran and Benediction by Rev. Isamu Welles. A reception ending the ceremony was held at Bernard's Restaurant in the evening.

The ceremony, held in front of the Telecommunication's newly completed Corporate office in Kolonia, at

(See TELECOM, Page 4)



The 25th General Assembly of Asian-Pacific Parliamentarians' Union was held here at the FSM Congress Chamber, December 3-5. The APPU posed in front of the Chamber for a group photo. See story on Page 2.

2 FSM hosted 25th General Assembly of APPU

THE NATIONAL UNION, December 15, 1990

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE)-The 25th General Assembly of the Asian-Pacific Parliamentarian's Union (APPU) convenes its three-day session, December 3rd, in the FSM Congress Chamber at Palikir, Pohnpei, concluding its session, December 5 after adopting 26 resolutions and signing a Joint Communiqué.

This is the first time the FSM has been the host of APPU General Assembly. The National groups of APPU are the Republic of China, Republic of Korea, Japan, Republic of the Philippines, Kingdom of Thailand, Kingdom of Tonga, and the FSM. Associate groups are Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, and the Republic of Palau. The Asian-Pacific cultural center (APCC) is an organization of APPU.

The opening of the 25th General Assembly began in the afternoon with the election of Speaker Fritz as President, replacing the Honorable Chung-Hwa Suh of the Republic of Korea who served as President of the 24th General Assembly, according to a release from the FSM Congress.

FSM Vice President Hiroshi Ismael in his remarks to the Assembly, offered assistance from his staff and the government to assist with the work of the APPU while in the FSM.

Ismael expressed appreciation on behalf of the FSM to those governments who are members of APPU for their efforts in supporting FSM application for membership in the Asian Development Bank.

He said that the FSM is now entering a new era of economic development and the young FSM Nation should look to its friends and neighbors in the region for possible economic cooperation and development.

"We should hope that your deliberation during this meeting will include such a challenging agenda items as the concept of Asian-Pacific Trade and in particular free

trades such as the arrangement we entered among our Forum-Countries with Australia and New Zealand," he concluded.

After welcoming the delegates to the FSM, Fritz said that the FSM is a young nation who, "come a long way in a very short time," in achieving membership in APPU.

"The FSM has been privileged to participate in the important affairs of the APPU since 1978, first as an observer group then as an associate group, and now under a full national group status which we have attained in 1988," he said.

Another matter that the speaker emphasized to the Assembly is the recognition of the FSM by the world community as a sovereign nation.

"We want to again thank those nations of this Union who have continued to assist and support us in our efforts for full recognition of our independence," he told the Assembly.

The Speaker also said that the FSM, "values its part in the Asian-Pacific Parliamentarian's Union and we are honored to be your host for the 25th General Assembly Meeting."

"In meeting like the ones we will be engaged in over the next few days, we will have the opportunity to get to know each other and the nations we represent in a better way. This is vitally important, for in getting to know each other better through an exchange of ideas and discussions, we will become more sensitive to the needs and situation of other nations, especially those in our Asian-Pacific Region," he explained.

A steering committee met earlier and elected FSM Congress Floor Leader Dohsis Halbert of Pohnpei to replace the outgoing chairman Viliami P. Afeaki who is also the Secretary General of the Tonga national group. Members of the various national delegations were introduced. National delegations present during the opening session are those of the Republic of China,

Japan, Kingdom of Thailand, Kingdom of Tonga, Korea, Republic of the Marshalls, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Guam, Cook Islands, Republic of Palau, and the FSM.

The first session of the 4th council meeting began with the election of the FSM Congress Speaker Jack Fritz as chairman. The council then adopted a resolution admitting the Cook Islands into the Union.

The Bank of the FSM hosted a luncheon for the delegates, and a group of Pohnpeian dancers entertained the delegations during lunch hour.

The second day Assembly began with discussions and admittance of the Cook Islands as the newest member of APPU and addresses by member delegations.

The Philippines, Republic of Korea, Republic of China, Japan, and Thailand all drew attention of the delegates to the current crises in the Persian Gulf caused by the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq Military Forces.

The Chief Delegate from the Republic of Korea in his address pointed out that, "the world today proceeds toward an era of peace and cooperation." Except the confrontation of the Persian Gulf crises and the deterioration of the world economy. Adding that, "The world economy is expected to worsen with the soaring oil prices stemmed from the gulf crises."

Chief Delegate of the Philippine's Delegation Salvador S. Laguda sounded off the theme of this year's Assembly when he reiterated the commitment of the Philippines to the principles of APPU when he stated in his address that, "freedom, democracy, peace and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region," shall be safeguarded.

The delegate from the Philippines told the Assembly that, "War will bring about chaos and economic instability and the human suffering would be incalculable."

In addition he said that his coun-
(See APPU, Page 3)

(Continued from Page 2)

try is looking to APPU, "as a proper venue to discuss and weigh these matters, for if we who are far away from the conflict refuse or fail to act expeditiously, even the peaceful and stable climate we now enjoy will disappear gradually as the forces of war and annihilation do their terrible work."

Chief Delegate of the Japanese delegation, the Honorable Takashi Hasegawa reaffirmed a few facts about the region, especially the Pacific. He told the Assembly that, "the region, with its dynamism and diversity, will be very important as an utopia for all mankind in the coming 21st century."

"You all know that the Pacific area has been viewed as the ocean of peace and a bridge between peoples in peace and harmony," he said.

The Japanese delegation also agreed that the, "World's economies are now increasingly internationalized and nations are becoming more and more interdependent."

Since nations are seeking for the creation of international organizations such as APPU for mutual dependence, the Asian-Pacific Parliamentarians' Union, "will be more important than ever as the key to a future regional economic alliance," he said.

The Chinese delegation said that, "The APPU must pay serious attention to the Asian-Pacific economy based on gen-

eral principles of free trade and democratic institutions toward achieving important benefits for the region and the international community."

According to the Chinese Chief Delegate Wang Chune-Yune, "Member countries of the APPU share certain Asian cultural qualities incorporated into regional interactions and policies. Our traditional culture of harmony and tolerance is characteristic of the Asian way, with concerted effort, through our parliaments and public media, we can play an active role in promoting the cause of APPU."

Air Chief Marshall Pruangwit Hohngsana, leader of the delegation of Thailand, said the end of the cold war between the east and the west has brought about economic improvement throughout the world. Unfortunately, "The invasion of Kuwait by the Iraqi forces has shattered the economic boom we were experiencing."

"The oil prices increase, immediate the result of the invasion, has reduced the growth rate of investment throughout the world. I believe that it is our duty to do our best to bring an end to the illegal occupation of Kuwait. We should collectively endorse the United Nations resolution dealing with this problem and do our best to see that the resolution has been implemented by our respective governments," he explained.

The delegation from Papua New

Guinea (PNG) asked for the protection of the world environment. The delegation asked that all nations preserve and protect the environment because of its importance to the continuing survival of all living creatures on this planet.

He told the Assembly, "Papua New Guinea is a rich nation. Rich in agriculture, fishing and mineral resources."

He said his country is disappointed that many industrialized countries do not seem to be so concerned about the destructions they caused to the environment in his country.

"All too often, the profit motive seems to be their most important priority," he said.

Chief Delegate of the Republic of the Marshall Islands Senator Hiroshi Yamamura asked what APPU can do to assist small and developing member countries in the area of technological and economic development.

He, "urged that the more advanced member countries assist our efforts to move forward and to enable us to meet the challenges of tomorrow while at the same time maintain and preserve our cultural identities and heritage for ourselves and for our future generations."

The Senator also urged the Union to consider the storage of toxic waste on Johnston Island by the U.S. Military, a matter which he considered warranted immediate attention and to seek a solution in order to guarantee, not only the protection of the environment, but the safety and health of the people in the Marshalls and other Pacific Islands.

Chief Delegate Daiziro Nakamura of the Republic of Palau, told the Assembly that, "All the world has been impressed with the economic achievements of the 'the five tigers of the Pacific.'"

"These, the most industrialized nations of the Pacific, are beginning to see the benefits of regional cooperation leading to regional growth through the development of markets, trading partners, and sources of materials as well as healthful recreational outlets for working people," he said.

He further added that, "the more



FSM VICE PRESIDENT SPEAKS TO APPU - Vice President Hiroshi H. Ismael (at the podium) is presenting his welcoming remarks to APPU at the FSM Congress Chamber. On his left is FSM Congress Chief Clerk Henry Asugar, and upper right corner is FSM Congress Speaker Jack who is also the APPU President.

(See (APPU), Page 6)

(Continued from Page 1)

the old Public Works Garage site was broadcast live through the satellite system and aired over the radio broadcast stations in Yap, Chuuk, Kosrae and Pohnpei States.

Chairman Apis expressed his deep appreciation to all who participated in the dedication ceremony, have done in one way or another something which contributed to the construction and successful completion of the construction. He mentioned Pohnpei Public Land Authority for making the site available, the contractor for the fine workmanship, noting that the historic occasion was held on the same day years ago when the Japanese Imperial Navy attacked Pearl Harbor in Hawaii.

In his remarks, President Haglelgam stated that the dedication of the new FSM Telecommunication's permanent Headquarters to house the corporate offices, international and local switches is part of the FSM's five-year upgrading program to improve and expand the services within "our country and to provide the state of the art equipment and capability for our people to communicate with the outside world."

In addition he said, "Having quality and affordable means of communication are crucial factors directly related



Haglelgam speaking at the telecom dedication ceremony.

to economic development. As part of our overall effort to create an environment in our nation that is conducive to economic development, the completion of this modern telecommunications center is a step in the right direction.

Haglelgam congratulated the Board and the Management for the new facilities, and the Black Construction Company and its crew for their hard work which resulted in the completion of the construction within 16 months.

Governor Moses told the audience that the FSM would no longer be in a cultural isolation as modern communications technology is now available, that we must be prepared and adopt a more Global approach to life and meaningfully participate in the world affairs.

"Our children will be able to participate in the world affairs," he said.

Moses challenged the Board of Directors and the management to expanding this modern telecommunication to be available to the nearby communities in the state centers and outer islands. Saying it's ironic that he could pickup the telephone and call any major centers in the world but unable to make a phone call to a location beyond Dousokele nor beyond the FSM Capital in Palikir.

FSM Congress Speaker Fritz, in his remarks said, "The move to this spacious new Headquarters is symbolic of a process that has already been taking place, the entry of our young nation into the 21st century. An effort which involved not only technology, but acting together as a nation, pulling resources together to make our lives more comfortable. We are no longer isolated from the outside world. No longer do we have to travel up to Nanponmal to shout into noisy obsolete machines in an attempt to communicate with our sister states and outside world. No longer do our friends in other nations refuse to contact us because of the ordeal in getting through to us on what was once called our telephone system."

In addition, Fritz said, "Now that we have taken our giant step, there are still many smaller steps that must be looked at by the distinguished Board of Directors of FSM Telecommunication" referring to the lack of telephone system to the outlying communities and outer islands of the four FSM states.

The last remarks by Nanmwarki of Kitti, Penido Peter, representing the traditional leaders, through an interpreter, congratulated the Corporation for its accomplishments and urged Telecommunication to continue to follow closely "the plan" which has been laid for them to implement, referring to the expansion plan for the outlying communities and islands in the FSM.

The new facility is a two story with a below ground level, basement serving as its utility rooms. The ground floor for the customers' service, where tele-

(See TELECOM, Page 5)



FSM TELECOMMUNICATION RIBBON CUTTING -Cutting the ribbon during the December 7 Telecommunication facilities dedication ceremony at Kolonia are, from left to right, Mrs. Merly Apis, Mrs. Francy Fritz, Pohnpei State First Lady Sue Moses, FSM First Lady Paula Haglelgam, and Nahnkeniei Nett Margarette Iriarte.

25th General assembly of APPU signs joint communique

5

THE NATIONAL UNION, December 15, 1990

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - During the closing ceremony marking the conclusion of the 25th General Assembly and the 48th Council Meeting of the APPU, a Joint Communique was adopted and signed by the member nations. The communique reads as follows: The 25th General Assembly of the Asian-Pacific Parliamentarians' Union was held in Palikir, Pohnpei State, Federated States of Micronesia from December 3 to 5, 1990, in an atmosphere of cooperation, mutual understanding, and friendship. The National Groups of the Republic of China, the Cook Islands, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of the Philippines, the Kingdom of Thailand, the Kingdom of Tonga and associate groups of Guam and the Republic of Palau participated in the conference. In addition, the Asian-Pacific Cultural Center (APCC) was represented.

In conjunction with the General Assembly, the 48th Council Meeting, the 25th Executive Board Meeting of the APCC, and the 32nd governing board meeting of the APCC were also held.

The former President of the General Assembly, Honorable Chung-Hwa Suh of the Korean National Group opened the 25th General Assembly. The Honorable Jack Fritz, Speaker of the Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia and President of the Federated States Micronesia National Group was unanimously elected President of the 25th General Assembly.

The General Assembly was honored by the presence of the Honorable Hiroshi H. Ismael, Vice

President of the Federated States of Micronesia, who delivered a Congratulatory Address on behalf of the President of the Federated States of Micronesia.

The Cook Islands, whose membership had been proposed and adopted by all of the National Groups and Associate Groups at the 25th General Assembly Meeting in Pohnpei, was admitted as a full member of the Union.

The 25th General Assembly adopted a total of 26 resolutions out of 35 draft resolutions, of which 25 were referred from the 47th Council Meeting held in Tonga and 10 were submitted to the 25th General Assembly. Among those adopted, 10 were submitted to the 25th General Assembly. Among those adopted, 10 were political resolutions, eight were economic resolutions, four were cultural resolutions, and four were special resolutions.

The 25th General Assembly, represented by distinguished parliamentary leaders from the Asian-Pacific region, concluded successfully, reaching all its objectives with active participation. It reaffirmed the significant role of the Asian-Pacific Parliamentarians' Union and the need for all the member nations to further consolidate their joint efforts for peace and prosperity in the region.

The 25th General Assembly expresses its appreciation to the host country, the Federated States of Micronesia, for its hospitality and contribution to the success of the conference. The 25th General Assembly also extends its best wishes to the hosting National Group of the next

Council Meeting.

Signing the Joint Communique were delegates from the Republic of China, Japan, Republic of the Marshall Islands, PNG, Kingdom of Thailand, Guam, Cook Islands, Republic of Korea, FSM, Republic of the Philippines, Kingdom of Tonga, Republic of Palau, and the representative of the Asian-Pacific Cultural Center of APPU.

Telecom....

(Continued from Page 4)

phones will soon be installed in the booths and various support offices are located. The top floor contains offices for the management and administrative staffs, and conference room for the Board of Directors. The facility is equipped with its own emergency generators that can start automatically when the main power is off, making it typhoon proof, an excellent typhoon command center. The present telephone services will continue at the Nanpohnmal facility while transfer of equipment to the new facility is continuing for the next 6 to 7 months, says General Manager Takuro Akinaga.

The Corporation has applied for a loan of \$41 million dollars from U.S. Rural Electrification Agency (REA) and that only the final legal negotiations remains, says Apis. As soon as the loan proceed is received, the Corporation will begin to purchase equipment for the expansion of domestic services using a different satellite from the Comsat now being used for international communications.

Plans for new facilities for Yap, Kosrae and Chuuk are now being developed. Constructions will follow beginning in Yap and Kosrae, respectively, where land has been secured. The Corporation is continuing to seek from the Chuuk Government a new site for its new facility, says Apis.

(Continued from Page 3)

THE NATIONAL UNION, December 15, 1990

industrialized nations of the Pacific rim need to establish a close relationship with the Pacific Islands as a place where their weary workers can come to enjoy a beautiful, healthful, restful outlet to enable them to recover from the stress of work and then to return as more rested and productive people.

For this matter he then declared, "the time is now ripe for the institution of an airline linking the Pacific."

The airline will serve to enhance the overall regional economic growth and to promote tourism, he said.

The resolutions adopted by the Assembly include: a resolution proposed by the national groups resolving the Cook Islands be admitted to the APPU as full member; a resolution proposed by the Tonga national group resolving that the APPU pays its highest tribute to the late Kuo Chi of the Republic of China for his contribution to the Union and humanity; a resolution proposed by the FSM national group resolving that all the APPU member nations express their gratitude and appreciation for the dedicated work of Noboru Yabata as Secretary General of the Central Secretariat of APPU.

Five other resolutions proposed by the Guam associate group resolving that APPU reaffirm its support for freedom of the press, requesting the U.S. Government to expedite and accelerate the process of granting commonwealth status to the territory of Guam, requesting the U.S. Government to recognize the honor and inherent rights to control the jurisdiction of all APPU members to the 200 miles Exclusive Economic Zone, encouraging practice of recycling and to renew support for the Pacific Natural Environment and Cultural History Preservation, and requesting the U.S. Government and the U.S. food and drug administration to lift the ban on the carriage of the husked areca nut, better known to the Pacific Islanders as pugga or betelnut, for personal use and consumption between the islands of the Pacific and the U.S.

The Republic of China is the sponsor of four other resolutions adopted by the

Assembly resolving that support be given to the Republic of China to be dialogue partner of the South Pacific Forum, the participants of APPU urge their governments and public media to eliminate political consideration and to support the admission of the customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu to GATT, the APPU expresses to the UN its deep concern with the gulf crises and its support of the UN resolution, and urging Communist China to respect human rights.

Two other resolutions were sponsored by the Republic of Korea urging that North Korea take part in the on-going Prime Ministers' talks between the two sides for regaining of mutual trust and reunification of the two Koreas, and instructing the APPU General Secretariat to communicate to the trade negotiations committee the appeals of the regional farmers be reflect in the trade negotiations of the Uruguay round.

Two resolutions by the Thai National Group resolving that the APPU members, particularly the developed countries, increase the cooperation with other member countries, in the fields of technology transfer, investment and development of human resources, and to urge regional cooperation for cultural development such as tourism, cultural exchange, the development of youth and the advancement of women in the Asian-Pacific region.

Two resolutions were proposed by the Kingdom of Tonga resolving that the APPU calls upon member nations to appeal strongly to their respective governments to enact specific measures to prevent illegal fishing by its nationals or companies or vessels in the fishery zone of the Pacific countries, and requesting APPU to call upon its member nations to cooperate and develop tourism within the Asian-Pacific region as a whole by the reciprocal issue of landing rights, airport facilities and in particular to assist in the development of tourism in the small island nations of the Pacific.

The FSM National Group also sponsored three other resolutions expressing appreciation to the Kingdom of Tonga for its wonderful hospitality and suc-

cessful hosting of the 47th APPU Council Meeting, urging member nations of APPU to promote, increase, and improve the transportation and communication services of the Pacific-Island member nations, and thanking the APPU

member nations who have agreed to discontinue driftnet fishing in the region.

A resolution proposed by Guam and co-sponsored by the FSM, requests that ocean freight rates assessed cargoes carried between the ports of the U.S., Guam, the FSM, and other Pacific islands be subject to public hearings and public disclosures and in support of the legal efforts by the people of Guam and the people of the FSM to secure such disclosure through the courts.

There is another resolution proposed by the Philippines, Tonga, and Guam calling upon the contending parties in the present Middle East confrontation to seek just and peaceful solutions to their problems.

The other is by Korea, Japan, and PNG on the preservation of global environment.

The FSM, Tonga, and Guam proposed another opposing shipment of highly lethal obsolete chemical weapons from Europe and disposing of them in the Pacific.

Another by the FSM, Japan, and Guam to create an APPU educational exchange to assist students from member nations of lesser means.

CORRECTIONS

In the Volume 11 of the National Union, Number 13, Page 2, "Amendment to ConCon transmitted to CFSM", it was mentioned in the first paragraph of the story that the ConCon was held July 10 to August 28. It should be July 16, to August 29.

22nd South Pacific Forum will be hosted by FSM

7

THE NATIONAL UNION, December 15, 1990

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - President John R. Haglelgam in a September cabinet meeting appointed several of his cabinet members as planning and coordinating committee for the 22nd South Pacific Forum which will be held here next year with Secretary of Finance Al Tuuth as chairman.

The overall committee consists of: Acting Secretary of External Affairs Epel Ilon, Human Resources Secretary Dr. Eluel Pretrick, Transportation and Communication Secretary Robert Weilbacher, FSM Attorney General Bill Mann, President's Chief of Staff Ieske Iehsi, FSM National Planner John Mangefel, National Fisheries Corporation (NFC) Executive Director James Movick, FSM Congress Director of Administrative Services Suda Rayel, Office of Administrative Services Director Kone Ramon, Special Assistant for Federal and Foreign Relations to Pohnpei State Governor SeNellie Singeo, Actouka's Insurance General Manager and the Pohnpei ROTARY Clubs Representative Maridell Actouka, and Pohnpei LION Clubs Representative Penny Weilbacher,

according to Tuuth.

The Planning and Coordinating Committee had agreed upon the Pre-Forum to be held July 22-24, 1991; Retreat to meet on Joy Island July 27-28; the actual Forum meeting to be held, July 29-30; and the Post Forum meeting to begin July 31 to August first.

The Prime Ministers and the Presidents will leave for the retreat on the evening of July 26, and return the afternoon of July 28 to Kolonia, replied Tuuth.

Tuuth assigned the functions to various sub-committees and appointed External Affairs Deputy Chief of South Pacific Affairs Tadao Sigrah as Protocol Officer who will be on call for 24 hours a day, and be on hand to greet the arriving Forum dignitaries, and to provide assistance and directions to drivers and security officers for the visiting VIPS, solves hotel accommodation problems and see to it that every protocol is not violated during the 22nd SPF Meeting.

Ramon who is in charge of sub-committee on Baggage, will take care of baggages of arriving participants to the Forum Meeting; and other sub-committee chairpersons

include, Isabel Gawel who is the Administrator of Administrative Services, Airport and Reception sub-committee; Dr. Pretrick, in charge of the team comprised of Doctors and Nurses to be available during the entire period of the Forum Meeting, Iehsi, in charge of all problems related with the Air Lines; Actouka, Invitation sub-committee; Josefa Weilbacher, Program sub-committee; Joseph, Accommodation sub-committee, to take care of the Hotel Rooms; Rayel, Entertainment and the Receptions; Mann and the Chief, Division of Law Mike Finn, Drivers & Security Officers sub-committee, in charge of assigning drivers and security officers to the prime ministers, presidents and to the others elaborated Tuuth; Movick, vehicle sub-committee in charge to assign cars to the participants and to see to it that each of the Forum participants is treated equally and has good vehicle to use during the Forum meetings; Singeo, Dignitaries' Wives Programs, to plan programs for wives while husbands are in the meetings; Weilbacher, Meeting Site sub-committee; FSM Congress Journal Clerk Sue Shadack is in charge of the supporting staff including pages, administrative staff, typists, machine operators, ushers to prepare coffee, etc.



CELEBRATING FSM VICE PRESIDENT'S BIRTHDAY - FSM Vice President Hiroshi H. Ismael is blowing out the candles on his birthday cake during his November 30th party held in the Cabinet Room commemorating his 54th birthday. Looking on is Office of the President's Administrative Officer Pelsesar Petrus.

Bulletin

President John R. Haglelgam will be travelling to Yap to attend and be there for the Yap State Inauguration, and Vice President Hiroshi H. Ismael will be in Kosrae for the Kosrae State Inauguration. Both Inauguration will be held on the 14th of January.

8 PREL establishes Educational Laboratory for Pacific region

THE NATIONAL UNION, December 15, 1990

HONOLULU, Hawaii, (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - The Pacific region now has its own regional educational laboratory under a 5-year, \$6.3 million contract from the U.S. Department of Education signed in Washington, D.C., December First, according to a release from the Pacific Region Educational Laboratory (PREL).

PREL headquarter is located in Honolulu, servicing American Samoa, The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, FSM, Guam, Hawaii, Republics of the Marshall Islands, and Palau.

Executive Director Dr. John W. Kofel said that the contract awarded to PREL turns the dream of forward-looking Pacific educators into reality. The idea of a Pacific laboratory comparable to the nine existing regional educational laboratories on the U.S. mainland was championed by Senator Daniel K. Inouye, Democrat from Hawaii, in the early 1980's. Initial planning was conducted by the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory (NWREL) in Portland, Oregon. NWREL being the oldest and largest of the educational laboratories, had previous experience in Pacific educational research and improvement through contract work.

In 1985, NWREL set up an affiliate office in Honolulu to serve the Pacific. Dr. Kofel, then Vice Chancellor of the University of Hawaii at Hilo, was selected as director of the Center for the Advancement of Pacific Education, NWREL's Honolulu affiliate. Under Dr. Kofel's leadership and the direction of its board, the organization has grown to a staff of twelve and has been actively working toward educational improvement in the Pacific through its research and programs, including sponsorship of an annual regional conference.

In June this year, the Center's board submitted its proposal to become an independent educational laboratory known as PREL. The board includes the chief state school officers of the ten entities of the region as well as representatives of higher education and private schools. Board membership of PREL will be expanded to include representatives of business and the community, in recognition of the importance of partnerships for educational improvement.

"The Major source of PREL's as an organization has been the collaboration of educators from throughout our Pacific region," says Kofel, adding that, "prior to this organization, Pacific educators had few opportunities to work together on common

concerns. Geographic isolation and limited resources are big obstacles to overcome, but we have seen tremendous dedication to the goal of improving opportunities for the Pacific child."

PREL's major funding comes through the Office of Education Research and Improvement, U.S. Department of Education. as a nonprofit corporation, PREL contracts for additional work in educational research, curriculum development, evaluation, and school improvement with individual departments of education, private schools, and other organizations. For more information, contract:PREL 1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1409, Honolulu, Hawaii, 96813.



AWARD CEREMONY - Secretary of R&D Marcelino Actouka presented awards to T3Trainees and staff during an award ceremony held at the T3 campus. Posing for a group photo from left to right standing are: Construction Training Officer Murphy Upal, (UNV) Plumber Training Officer Francis Kiyaga, (UNV) Air Condition and Refrigeration Training Officer Aleso Bejemino, T3 Program Manager Jesse Sydney, Mechanical Training Officer John Tiegmal, FSM Labor Inspector Aurelio Joab. Sitting from left to right: Ben Santos, Businessman and a trainee at T3, Clerk Typist Ernista Donre, SSTO & Electrical Training Officer Welly Welles, PICS High School Mechanic Instructor Yosiwo Samuel, Actouka, and Accountant Mercedes Bermanis.

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