



11TH MICRONESIAN CHIEF EXECUTIVES' SUMMIT

MAJURO, REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

July 11-15, 2009

JOINT COMMUNIQUE

**The Republic of the Marshall Islands, The Republic of Palau,
The Federated States of Micronesia and its States, Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae,
The Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands
and The Territory of Guam**

Introduction

The Chief Executives of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and its States, Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI) and the Territory of Guam held their Eleventh Micronesian Chief Executives' Summit (MCES) at the International Conference Center situated in Majuro Atoll, Republic of the Marshall Islands on July 14-15, 2009. This Summit resulted in the adoption of regional programs of action in the specific areas of Health, Telecommunication, the Environment, Transportation, Energy, Tourism and Invasive Species. Actions were also implemented in miscellaneous areas of concern to the sub-region.

The Summit began with welcoming remarks from President Litokwa Tomeing, on behalf of the host nation, the Republic of the Marshall Islands. President Emanuel Mori, on behalf of the FSM, President Johnson Toribiong, on behalf of the Republic of Palau, and Governor Benigno R. Fitial, on behalf of the Governors of the CNMI, Guam, Pohnpei, Yap and Kosrae reaffirmed their commitments, on behalf of their people and governments, to enhance and establish ties with all nations in the region, expand future discussions and agree on initiatives for the benefit of the entire Micronesian region. The Governor of Chuuk was unable to attend the Summit. FSM Foreign Affairs Secretary Lorin Robert was appointed by Governor Wesley Simina to represent the State of Chuuk. The letter written dated on July 15, 2009 by Governor Wesley Simina mentioned the confirmation of the appointment of FSM Foreign Affairs Secretary Lorin Robert to designate his authority on behalf of him and the State of Chuuk.

President Tomeing extended his warmest welcome and greetings to Republic of Palau President Johnson Toribiong, FSM President Emanuel Mori and Governor Felix P. Camacho of Guam, Governor Benigno R. Fitial of the CNMI, Governor Sebastian Anefal of Yap, Governor Robert Weilbacher of Kosrae, and Governor John Ehsa of Pohnpei. President Tomeing expressed his appreciation for the Chief Executives' attendance and their active participation in the 11th Micronesian Chief Executives' Summit. He also acknowledged the traditional leadership of the Marshall Islands. He then recognized the various guests and delegates that came to work for and witness this event.

Following the opening ceremonies of the Summit, the Chief Executives heard reports and recommendations from the various sub-regional committees and presentations on a number of

issues of interest in the sub-region and region and jointly directed action in their respective jurisdictions, as reflected in this 11th Communiqué.

Regional Invasive Species Committee (RISC)

After a report by the RISC, the Chief Executives endorsed the recommendations of the Committee and agreed to the following:

- Sign a letter to thank the United States Department of Defense for committing to fund the development of a regional Biosecurity plan related to the military relocation in Guam and the CNMI;
- Sign a letter to U.S. Government requesting support for Guam's stimulus funding proposal to eradicate the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle;
- Identify, in writing to the Chair of the RISC, two representatives to RISC from each state and national jurisdiction by the end of July 2009;
- Reaffirm their commitment to continue to send their RISC representatives to two workshop-style meetings per year, between Summits, in order to collaborate on invasive species issues and priorities;
- Reaffirm their commitment to provide a minimum of \$2,500 from each jurisdiction to fund RISC's priority projects, as soon as the RISC bank account has been opened; and
- Reaffirm their commitment to provide a permanent and full-time Invasive Species Coordinator for each jurisdiction.

Pacific Workforce Investment Workgroup (PWIW)

The Pacific Workforce Investment Workgroup (PWIW) reported that it held its organizing and technical meetings on July 11-13, 2009. The PWIW Host Chairpersons (RMI and Guam) convened the two sessions welcoming the participating members representing each of the jurisdictions. The key discussions covered the development of the RWDC bylaws, the importance of workforce data collection, aligning practical regional workforce initiatives and building stronger collaboration across all key public and private sector partners. Other discussions included the importance of computer literacy training and the importance of financial literacy education.

The Chief Executives endorsed the following Workforce recommendations:

- As it relates to the RWDC/PWIW Strategic Plan, the RWDC council shall develop appropriate goal areas aligned to but not limited to the recommended Strategic Plan Focus Areas:
 - Workforce Demand Initiatives;
 - Workforce Supply Initiatives; and
 - Comprehensive local/regional based training systems.
- As it relates to the RWDC/PWIW Pipeline development initiatives, directed the RWDC to establish a workgroup to establish a Micronesia (Regional) Job Corp Center in Guam;
- As it relates to the RWDC/PWIW Workforce Readiness and Credentialing Initiatives, endorsed the adoption of a comprehensive regional School of Apprenticeship and U. S. Department of Labor approved registered apprenticeship program; and

- Endorsed the Micronesian Workforce Transformation Forum unifying the regions workforce investment and development efforts.

The Regional Energy Committee (REC)

The Chief Executives heard the findings of the Energy Committee and endorsed the following recommendations:

- That the REC incorporate itself so that it can attract funding from broad funding sources;
- That there be a “floating REC/MEA Secretariat” the host of which rotates among member countries;
- That communications be improved between members of the REC/MEA using web based communication (list server);
- That a Regional Energy Policy be developed once member countries have adopted their own National Energy Policies;
- That the Pacific Island Forum (PIF) bulk fuel procurement MOU be moved forward through the signatures of Palau, the FSM and the RMI;
- That a regional approach to Energy Issues be addressed through an initiative such as the Micronesia Energy Challenge as proposed by RMI [A 20:30:20 approach for Supply Side Management (SSM), Demand Side Management (DSM) Renewable Energy (RE) in the decade from 2010 to 2020]; and
- That jurisdictions that are already advanced in areas such as Energy Efficiency (EE) and Renewable Energy communicate their accomplishments and knowledge to other members.

The Chief Executives noted and welcomed the United States Department of Energy and the Guam Environmental Protection Agency’s grant for \$200,000 to the MCSF in order to augment planning in the Freely Associated States (FAS).

Pacific Islands Regional Recycling Initiatives Committee (PIRRIC)

1. Solid Waste Management

The PIRRIC recognized the accomplishments of both the RMI and Palau in the area of solid waste management. RMI has undertaken a comprehensive waste management program to clean the island that will ultimately find on-going funding through the implementation of ‘energy to waste incineration system’ (WTE). Through this WTE system, RMI projects that it will rid the island of approximately 60% of its waste stream on an on-going annual basis while generating sufficient revenues to pay for all other solid waste management activities. Revenues will be generated through the creation and sale of energy and of water through the WTE process.

The Republic of Palau also reported significant advances in solid waste management through the implementation of a “Container Deposit Fee”, which will serve as the foundation of a comprehensive island-wide recycling system. Palau has also been collaborating with Kosrae and Yap, within the FSM, to provide technical training in solid waste management, concentrating on the 3R’s (Reuse, Reduce, Recycle) system.

The Chief Executives agree with PIRRIC that these recent efforts by the RMI and Palau should be applauded and serve as models for advancing solid waste management in the Micronesian Region. With the collapse of the scrap metal market, collaborative and innovative efforts such as these are critical. In the effort to continue this movement towards greater regional cooperation and to improve domestic responses to solid waste issues, the Chief Executives endorse the recommendations of the PIRRIC, as follows:

- That the RMI and the FSM become official members of PIRRIC;
- That member jurisdictions seek funding from the Department of the Interior to undertake a comprehensive regional Solid Waste Action Plan within the next 12 months:
 - The RMI shall be designated as the primary coordinator in the development of the Plan;
 - Analysis will focus on sustainability through proven management practices and taking into account the feasibility of applying the WTE incineration system on an island by island basis; and
 - The Plan shall establish a basic design to effect waste management on all islands.
- That PIRRIC resource the Department of Interior and other funding options for member jurisdictions to complete domestic comprehensive solid waste management plans;
- That PIRRIC, within the context of domestic and regional Solid Waste Action Plans, identify appropriate pilot projects and seek to identify funding sources to implement;
- That PIRRIC and member jurisdictions work with the State of Chuuk within the FSM to develop an interim waste management plan of action; and
- That PIRRIC continue to encourage cooperation amongst its members in improvement of solid waste management and capacity throughout the region.

2. Micronesia Center for a Sustainable Future

PIRRIC also reported that work to establish the Micronesia Center for a Sustainable Future (MCSF) has continued since the last MCES. In this context, PIRRIC noted that the MCSF Interim Secretary General, Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr., has resigned from this post as Interim Secretary General of the Center. The Chief Executives applauded the past efforts of the Secretary General and endorsed the PIRRIC recommendation to continue move forward with the creation of the center. To continue these development efforts, the Chief Executives appointed President Emanuel Mori of the FSM as the new Secretary General of the MCSF and endorsed the following MCSF recommendations:

- Sign the draft Teaming Agreement With UOG;
- Sign the Alliance Agreement with the Micronesian Empowerment Center (MEC);
- Formally request funding from the Department of Interior for a regional Socio-Economic Needs Assessment; and
- Direct the Strategic Design Team to take the following actions and report back to the Chief Executives at the next Summit:
 - Continue to work on policy, financial & programs development;
 - Continue to work in identifying financial management institution & money management options;
 - Finalize 501(c)(3) Non Profit Status;

- Continue to identify other regional and international partners and opportunities;
- Undertake, in cooperation with the Department of Energy, via the Governor of Guam, an Energy Needs Assessment with U.S. Stimulus funding;
- Continue to explore potential organizational structures including corporate status and development of corresponding legal documents;
- Continue to work with the Bank of Guam to pursue the development of a Micronesian Monetary Fund;
- Take such other actions on behalf of the Chief Executives as will move forward, with all due expediency, the development of the Micronesia Center for a Sustainable Future; and
- Pursue the development of a Teaming Agreement with the USDA Graduate School to enhance regional capacity building and strengthen the administration of the Center.

Regional Tourism Committee (RTC)

The Committee updated the MCES on the follow-through on recommendations made during the 10th MCES and announced that the PATA Micronesia Chapter will commence the procurement process for retaining a professional PR Agency to develop regional awareness and image message once a “regional brand message” has been developed. The agency’s responsibilities will include, identifying a regional branding strategy, generating and issuing press release to various media outlets worldwide, developing press kits, conducting sales calls and seminars for media outlets and travel agents and coordinating with PATA Micronesia Chapter’s Marketing Committee on regional activities, programs, and events.

The Chief Executives endorsed the recommendations of the RTC as follows:

- *Magnificent Micronesia Website* (www.magnificentmicronesia.com) - Launch the Magnificent Micronesia Website at an annual cost of \$30,000 with each jurisdiction obligated to fund its proportionate share of this cost;
- *Micronesia Marketplace Website* (www.micronesiamarketplace.com) – Launch of www.micronesiamarketplace.com for the marketing of authentic local made products and to market the regional destinations and the linking of this site with www.magnificentmicronesia.com;
- *Regional Brand* – Directed the PATA Micronesia Chapter to undertake the procurement responsibility for securing a professional brand development agency to develop the regional brand messages. Action steps include:
 - Develop Scope of Work;
 - Solicit cost proposals for regional brand;
 - Evaluation and recommendation of selection;
 - Secure funding;
 - Obtain endorsement from Chief Executives; and
 - Marketing and promotion of a regional brand.

The Micronesia Challenge

The Micronesia Challenge Regional Coordinator reported to the Chief Executives on the progress in implementation of the Micronesia Challenge (MC). The presentation highlighted collective and individual achievements of the MC jurisdictions since the 10th Micronesia Chief

Executives Summit held in Pohnpei in November 2008. The Chief Executives reaffirmed their commitment to the MC and emphasized the role of the MC in addressing not just local and regional threats but also global problems such as climate change. Executives emphasized the need to be proactive in climate change negotiations and conventions at the international level because of the extreme vulnerability of the islands to global climate change.

The Chief Executives stressed the importance of adapting to climate change impacts in the most sustainable and cost-effective manner, reflecting agreement in the Niue Declaration on Climate Change that adaptation is a critical response for Pacific governments.

The Chief Executives recognized that the maintenance of healthy ecosystems and sustainable resource management are critical to the livelihoods of Pacific peoples and an effective response to climate change. They therefore agreed to increase the resilience and reduce the vulnerability of Pacific communities by responding urgently to threats to ecosystems, such as coastal development, over harvesting and invasive species, which continue to destroy natural resources across the Pacific.

The Chief Executives committed to strengthen biodiversity, natural resource management and climate change initiatives, and to work with other island regions to share lessons in more effective response to these threats. Leaders vowed to work with all partners in further pursuing ecosystem-based approaches to climate change including the decisions at UNFCCC COP15 in Copenhagen.

The Chief Executives further endorsed the recommendations of the Micronesia Challenge Steering Committee, as follows:

- Continue high level commitment for sustainable financing to secure current pledges and seek new funding opportunities at all levels;
- Recognize the MC as a key adaptation strategy at UNFCCC COP 15 – Copenhagen, Denmark;
- Endorse MCT’s bid to set up a conservation banking “in lieu” fee program as the preferred option for the compensatory mitigation that will be required as a result of impacts to natural resources associated with the military expansion activities in Guam and the CNMI;
- Integrate the MC into community activities as a key ecosystem-based adaptation strategy for climate change;
- Collaborate on strategies for negotiations leading up to UNFCCC COP 15, including promotion of fast action to mitigate climate change in the near term (Such strategies to include addressing short-lived climate forces such as black carbon, tropospheric ozone, methane and hydroflouorocarbons (HFCs));
- Garner support among other nations for fast-action climate strategies within other organizations, such as the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) and the Group of 77 + China, and in other international forums, including the Pacific Island Forum, the Montreal Protocol and UNFCCC process; and
- Recognize the commitment to the Micronesia Challenge, endorse and approve the finalization by the end of 2009 of the Micronesia Challenge Programme documentation for securing the release of the approved Global Environment Facility funds.

The Health Committee (HC)

The Health Committee reported that, as directed at the 10th MCES, the Committee is now staffed by the Pacific Island Health Officers Association, which acts as the Secretariat for the Committee. The Chief Executives endorsed Health Committee recommendations, which are clustered into five themes: 1) Preparedness, 2) Human Resources for Health including supporting Micronesian Veterans, 3) Medical Referral, 4) Community Health Partnerships and 5) Regional Planning. The Chief Executives endorsements are as follows:

1. Preparedness:

- Conduct a comprehensive feasibility study on improving laboratory capacity within the USAPIs to address the threat of emerging and re-emerging of infectious diseases such as Novel H1N1, SARS, and Avian Influenza;
- Regarding the current H1N1 outbreak and the Avian Influenza threat, strongly support the Guam Department of Public Health's plan to establish a Level 2 Reference Laboratory on Guam for the region;
- Following past MCES recommendations to develop a regional inventory and registry of both health care workers and emergency health care personnel, request Technical Assistance from the U.S. Office of the Assistant Secretary of Health for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) to coalesce the separate jurisdiction Emergency System of Advance Registration for Volunteer Health Professionals (ESAR-VHP) registries into one regional registry available for use by regional emergency health managers; and
- Initiate discussions among the USAPIs regarding bulk purchasing of pharmaceuticals and request Secretariat of the Pacific Community to assist USAPI in determining the feasibility of participating in Fiji bulk pharmaceutical purchasing scheme.

2. The Health Workforce

- Support of regional programs to include developing the new Nursing Program at College of Micronesia-FSM, strengthening the Nursing Programs at College of the Marshall Islands and Palau Community College; supporting the new Associate of Sciences Degree in Public Health Program at COM-FSM, and the supporting proposed Oral Health Practitioner Program (Dental Nurses) for COM-FSM; and
- Support dialogue with the Fiji School of Medicine to establish medical and allied health programs in Micronesia.

3. Medical Referral & Preparedness:

- Continue to ask the U.S. Congress to adequately fund 1) the Tripler Army Medical Center's Pacific Island Health Initiative, and 2) CDC's Pacific Emergency Health Initiative.

4. Community Partnerships & Public Health Planning

- Endorse efforts to strengthen partnership with the community, churches, businesses and other relevant non-government organizations (NGOs) and support strategic public health planning.

5. Regional Planning

- Endorse funding by the U.S
- Congress and the Interagency Coordinated Assets for Insular Health Response

(ICAIHR) of a new Institute of Medicine Report the on the status of health care services among the U.S.-Associated Pacific Islands;

- Extend its appreciation to the U.S. Department of Interior for sponsoring its “Future of Healthcare in the Insular Areas – A Leader’s Summit” in Honolulu in September 2008 and requests that a representative of the Micronesian Chief Executives Summit be invited to be a member of Interagency Coordinated Assets for Insular Health Response (ICAIHR) and participate in the ICAIHR process; and
- Support the U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs “Report on the Task Force on Health Care and Benefit Services to Veterans in the Pacific Insular Areas and the United States Virgin Islands” (December 2008) and commit to working with the Department of Veterans Affairs to improve access to benefits for the many Micronesian Veterans living and working in Micronesia.

Telecommunications Committee (TC)

The Micronesian Cable Project will bring fiber optic cable to each of the islands in Micronesia. Bringing fiber optic cable throughout the region will reduce the costs of telecommunications, enhance the service, and provide a platform for establishing interregional connectivity.

The members of the Telecommunications noted that these accomplishments would not have been possible without the vision and support of the MCES. The members of the Telecommunications Committee also said that the support from the United States Government for funding to secure loans through the Department of Agriculture’s Rural Utility Service has helped to insure that the vision of regional interconnectivity is realized. The Committee also noted that support from the United States Department of State and the Department of the Interior had helped to make the Micronesian Cable Project a reality.

The Telecommunications Committee reported on the status of the Micronesian Cable Project and that the following permits and agreements had been secured:

Financing (RUS), December 2008

Capital Lease on Main Cable (Hannon Armstrong), January 2009

Construction Agreement for Cable Extension (Tyco), January 2009

Operations and Maintenance Agreement (Truestone), March 2009

Wet Plant Repair Agreement (U.S. Army), March 2009

Kwajalein Access Agreement (U.S. Army), March 2009

Ports Authority, April 2009

Marine Resources Authority, April 2009

Environmental Planning and Policy Coordination, May 2009

Historic Preservation Office, May 2009

The Telecommunications Committee also reported the final steps to the completion of the project are the following:

- November 11, 2009
 - Tyco Reliance Class Vessel departs Hitachi
- November 18, 2009
 - Vessel hits Majuro shore
- November 18-28, 2009
 - Installation of RMI extension
- December 10, 2009
 - Installation of FSM extension
- January 8, 2010
 - Complete connection into Guam
- February/March 2010
 - Testing and commissioning of the network
- April 1, 2010
 - Dedication date

Other Business


The Chief Executives, through an official resolution, expressed their strong support for the nomination and confirmation of Anthony Marion Babauta as the next United States Assistant Secretary of Interior for the Insular Areas. The Chief Executives further expressed their appreciation to President Obama for his advancement of the issues of the Insular Areas and Micronesian States through the re-establishment of an

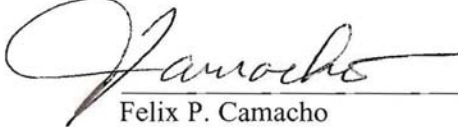
Conclusion

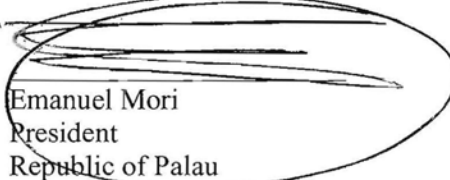
The Twelfth Summit of the Micronesian Chief Executives will be held in Guam at a time to be designated by Governor Felix P. Camacho.

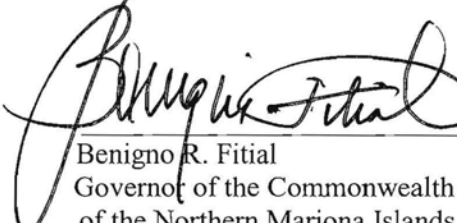
The Chief Executives closed the 11th Summit and once again stressed the need to move forward on prior and new initiatives. President Tomeing thanked all of the participants for their attendance and attention to these pressing issues before the Summit. The Chief Executives also expressed their appreciation to the staff of each jurisdiction for their hard work that made the Eleventh Summit a success.

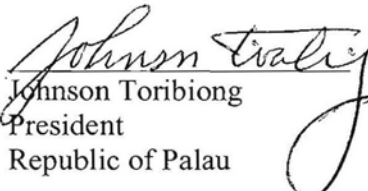
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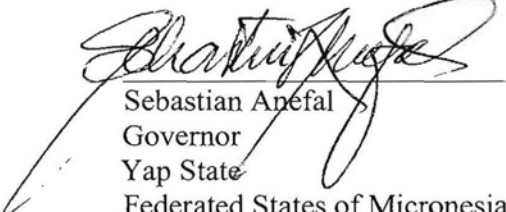

Litokwa Tomeing
President
Republic of the Marshall Islands



Felix P. Camacho
Governor of Guam

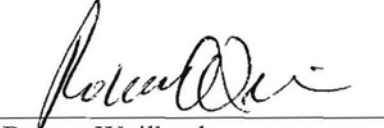

Emanuel Mori
President
Republic of Palau

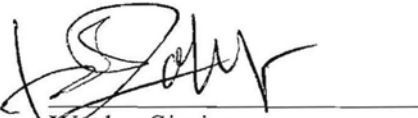

Benigno R. Fitial
Governor of the Commonwealth
of the Northern Mariana Islands


Johnson Toribiong
President
Republic of Palau


Sebastian Anefal
Governor
Yap State
Federated States of Micronesia


John Ehsa
Governor of Pohnpei
Federated States of Micronesia


Robert Weilbacher
Governor of Kosrae
Federated States of Micronesia


Wesley Simina
Governor of Chuuk
Federated States of Micronesia