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# *8th Western Micronesian Chief Executives' Summit*



Benigno R. Fitial  
Governor, CNMI



Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr.  
President, Palau



Felix P. Camacho  
Governor, Guam



Sebastian Anefal  
Governor, Yap

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## *JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ*

**The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Territory of Guam, the State of Yap, within the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau, and the National Government of the Federated States of Micronesia**

### **Introduction**

The Chief Executives of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Territory of Guam, the State of Yap, within the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau, held their Eighth Western Micronesian Chief Executives' Summit (WMCES) in Saipan, CNMI on November 13-15, 2007. This Summit resulted in the adoption of regional programs of action in the focus areas of Workforce Investment, Invasive Species, Solid Waste Management, Energy, the Micronesian Challenge, Health, Tourism, Transportation, Zoning, and Education.

The Summit reaffirmed the commitment of each of the participants, on behalf of their people and their governments, to establish closer ties, enhance existing ties, expand future discussions and agree on initiatives for the benefit of the entire Western Micronesian Region. President Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr. of Palau moved to include, and the other Chief Executives accepted, the National Government of the Federated States of Micronesia as a full member of the Chief Executives' Summit, thereby welcoming the Federated States of Micronesia's President Emanuel Mori, represented by Lorin Robert, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, to participate in the 8<sup>th</sup> WMCES.

The Honorable Governor Benigno R. Fitial of the CNMI extended his warmest welcome and greetings to President Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr. of Palau, Governor Felix P. Camacho of Guam, Governor Sebastian Anefal of Yap, and the National Government of the Federated States of Micronesia's Secretary of Foreign Affairs Lorin Robert. Governor Fitial expressed his

appreciation for the Chief Executives' attendance and active participation in the 8<sup>th</sup> Western Micronesian Chief Executives' Summit.

Prior to receiving the reports of the various committees, the Chief Executives heard a presentation by Captain Robert Lee III, Acting Director of the Joint Guam Program Office – Forward, on the Guam-CNMI military build-up program in anticipation of the relocation of the armed forces from Okinawa to Guam in the near future. The Chief Executives were also treated with a book presentation by author Ed Benavente of the Territory of Guam entitled “Manmagalahi” (“The Chiefs”). Towards the end of the Summit, the Chief Executives heard a presentation by the Guam Community College (GCC) regarding regional educational opportunities. GCC outlined the various programs they offer that may be beneficial to the Micronesia region.

The Chief Executives then heard reports and recommendations from ten committees representing areas of critical importance in the Western Micronesia region and directed action in their respective jurisdictions, as set forth below.

## **Regional Workforce Development Council (RWDC)**

The Regional Workforce Development Council was created during the 5<sup>th</sup> WMCES and charged with the development of initializing strategic goals for year one and two. This includes the following items endorsed by the Chief Executives:

- Alignment of workforce development, vocational education and other training programs, and leveraging of resources;
- Collaboration, integration, and formation of partnerships with the private-sector; and
- Creation and implementation of training programs for demand-driven occupations.

The workgroup reported that it has drafted years one and two of the five year strategic regional plan.

Following the 7th Communique, the Workforce Strategy Taskforce Team, through the guidance of the RWDC, began rightsizing strategies in key areas, as follows: Regional Workforce Development & Training; Military Growth & Impact to the region; and Regional Asset/Resource Mapping. These strategies will be captured through the council's regional workforce development plan covering a five-year period.

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

1. Conduct Regional Resource/Asset Mapping.
2. Conduct Military Impact/Workforce Analysis, including the
  - a. Alignment of funding systems to build leveraging opportunities with regional partners; and
  - b. Improvement of access to funds through grantsmanship; and

- c. Assessment of policy impact of foreign labor.
3. Develop Communication Framework for collaboration (Council Administration Center, funding support, staff support, in-kind and administrative cost).
4. Develop framework for goals and objectives covering years 1 and 2.

## **Micronesia Regional Invasive Species Council (RISC)**

The Micronesia Regional Invasive Species Council (RISC) was created at the 4<sup>th</sup> WMCES. Since then, the RISC has prepared an invasive species calendar, created a website, shared information on the region's most important invasive species, and developed a charter formally creating the Council. In July 2006, at the 6<sup>th</sup> WMCES, the Chief Executives endorsed the charter of the RISC.

The RISC indicated to the Chief Executives that their endorsement of the RISC's organizational charter has given the organization stability and has strengthened its ability to serve the region. The RISC also reported that the endorsement of the RISC Five-Year Strategic Plan in March 2007 has provided the RISC a clear direction for the next five years.

The Chief Executives congratulated the Micronesia RISC on the completion and adoption of Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. The Chief Executives endorsed these two documents and directed the RISC to incorporate as a non-profit organization in the Territory of Guam. The Chief Executives committed to continued support of the activities of the RISC.

The Chief Executives agreed that they will continue to send their RISC representatives to one workshop-style meeting between Summits in order to collaborate further on invasive species issues and priorities.

The Chief Executives also agreed to provide a minimum of \$2,500 from each jurisdiction by December 31, 2007 to fund RISC's priority projects. These projects include production of further printed materials, a 2008 calendar, and the maintenance of RISC's website.

The Chief Executives further directed the RISC to continue in its efforts to collaborate with and provide information to PIRRIC and the Transportation Committee and all other committees of the WMCES to prevent the movement of invasive species within Micronesia, as well as between the region and its neighbors.

Phillip Andreozzi, Regional Coordinator for the U.S. National Invasive Species Council (US-NISC), has begun a two year assignment in the Pacific to assist the region in building capacity for invasive species management. The Chief Executives agreed to sign a joint letter to the US-NISC to express gratitude for his assistance.

Finally, the Chief Executives agreed to sign a joint letter to United States Department of Defense, with copies to the Departments of Interior, Agriculture and State thanking them for

their support of brown tree snake interdiction and encouraging them to continue their commitment to full brown tree snake interdiction activities for the long term.

## **Solid Waste Management - Pacific Islands Regional Recycling Initiative Council (PIRRIC)**

The Pacific Islands Regional Recycling Initiative Council (PIRRIC) reported that continued progress has been made following last March's Summit held in the CNMI. The Council indicated that the market for recovered metallic material remains strong since the initiation of the 'Metallic Waste Removal Pilot Project' by the Western Micronesian Chief Executives. Further, the Council stated that, because of the continued increase in the international price of recovered metallic material, the private sector continues to provide significant assistance in solving this problem in all jurisdictions. Consequently, significant forward momentum has been maintained in the public-private partnerships designed to remove metallic waste from our islands. However, PIRRIC cautioned that this current removal success of recovered metallic material accumulated over years may not continue in the future, when the economies of scale will be smaller.

PIRRIC also reported that it has begun the process of developing long-term solutions to regional solid waste issues. In this effort, the Council is reviewing an evolving disposal technology known as the "Fukuoka" method of land filling, currently in use in Palau.

The PIRRIC further reported that Palau has instituted a pilot program to cost effectively remove tires to Japan. This provides an excellent opportunity to gain penetration into the Japanese recovered tire market, which may provide regional benefit by increasing the potential markets for used tires.

The PIRRIC also restated its goals to create a Comprehensive Regional Solid Waste Action Plan, including comprehensive local, national, and regional waste assessments; the development of institutional controls; the development of improved waste management systems; the improvement of environmental monitoring; the improvement of infrastructure capacity; the identification of regional funding opportunities; and the continuation of the metallic scrap removal over the next year, where appropriate.

The Council requested, and the Chief Executives endorsed the following actions:

1. Approved the updated PIRRIC membership;
2. Encouraged the PIRRIC members to elect a Secretariat before the next Summit;
3. Approved and supported the identification of a PIRRIC Administrative Center, *The Micronesian Center for a Sustainable Future*;
4. Directed PIRRIC members to research and secure funding from all potential sources to support PIRRIC activities;
5. Authorized PIRRIC to begin evaluating waste management options for tires and other difficult to manage wastes; and
6. Encouraged PIRRIC to continue its pursuit of funding for a workshop on waste management through the Department of Interior.

## **Regional Energy Committee (REC)**

The Regional Energy Committee provided presentation on various different renewable-alternative energy technologies to the Chief Executives. The focus of the REC, as directed by the Chief Executives was to begin seriously researching various technologies that are viable in the Micronesian Islands and to offer solutions to reduce the regions dependence on fossil based fuels. Reports included:

- An update of the Saipan DOW project, a Department of Energy funded project that provided funding for island researchers in Saipan to utilize deep ocean water technology for cold agriculture, industrial cooling and other potential use;
- An overview of the wind turbine opportunities; and
- A synopsis of Geothermal energy potential on the islands.

The Chief Executives noted that the price of fuel is the single biggest challenge facing every island utility in the Micronesian region.

The Chief Executives directed the REC to follow-up on directives from the 7<sup>th</sup> Joint Communiqué as follows:

1. To formally appoint regional members to serve specific terms on the Regional Energy Committee, so that the REC has full standing; and
2. To work cooperatively to pursue all viable options of renewable/alternative energy technologies (solar, wind, geothermal, ocean current, tidal, deep ocean water, etc.) through a team or task force created and coordinated by the REC for all member nations in Micronesia.

## **The Micronesia Challenge**

The Micronesia Challenge Steering Committee reported to the Chief Executives on the progress that has been made to implement the commitment to “*effectively conserve at least 30% of the near shore marine and 20% of the terrestrial resources across Micronesia by 2020.*” (The presentation was based upon the Steering Committee’s) 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Progress Report, which was directed by the 7<sup>th</sup> WMCES Communiqué. The report included the status of the recommendations from the Micronesia Challenge Action Plan Meeting held in Palau (December 4-7, 2006), and endorsed by the Chief Executives at the 7<sup>th</sup> Western Micronesia Chief Executives’ Summit and the 7<sup>th</sup> Micronesian Presidents’ Summit.

Issues upon which progress has been made include the following:

- The establishment of the Steering Committee (SC) with focal point membership from the CNMI, Guam, Palau, the FSM and the RMI, as well as a representative from the Micronesia Challenge Regional Support Team and a representative of the Micronesia Challenge (MC) endowment and the holding of the first two meetings;
- The mapping out of the selection process for recruiting a regional coordinator anticipated by December 1, 2007. The SC reduced the 1<sup>st</sup> year budget from a projected \$200,000 to \$120,000, to be financed through contributions by each jurisdiction on an equal basis and fundraising from partners;
- The selection of the Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT) to house a single endowment in support of the MC. In preparation for this the MCT Board of Trustees has approved the reorganization of the MCT, to include new bylaws, the membership of each participant in the endowment fund on the Board of the MCT and the development of individual MCT/jurisdiction MoU's for the MC endowment;
- The beginning of the process to institutionalize the MC within each jurisdiction. Supporting this effort, the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures (APIL), in June of 2007, adopted a resolution of support for the MC. In September, 2007, newly-elected FSM President Manny Mori signed a Presidential Proclamation endorsing the MC;
- The launching of the MC Internship Program, which will eventually place two interns in each jurisdiction. The overall goals of the internship program are building the next generation of conservation leaders and promoting the goals of the Micronesia Challenge (MC) and Protected Areas Networks (PANs);
- The finalization of a “Why Care about the Micronesia Challenge?” document developed by the MC Communications Working Group to enhance fundraising efforts;
- The development of a regional marketing/communications strategy for the MC with the assistance of SPREP; and
- The development of key messages to be incorporated into the new RARE campaigns over the next two years.

The Chief Executives congratulated the SC on its efforts to move the MC forward and endorsed the implementation of the next steps identified by the SC for the following year, which include the following:

- Hire an MC Regional Coordinator and establish the MC Regional Office (\$24,000 per jurisdiction committed for the first year).
- Finalize MC “Key Messages” and a Regional Fundraising Strategy, in coordination with national strategies for public and private funds.
- Develop a 10-year business plan (funding available from TNC).
- Finalize the reorganization and Board arrangements of the MCT.
- Follow-up on potential partnerships with France/EU countries to support the MC.

- Continue discussions with the U.S. Department of Defense to explore ways to potentially link mitigation and appropriations to the MC endowment and explore private sector tax incentives related to the civilian build-up (Guam and CNMI).
- Explore private sector tax incentives for support of the MC related to the associated civilian build-up (Guam and CNMI).
- Work with the Joint Guam Program Office to place the MC on the agenda of the next Industry Forum tentatively scheduled for the 1<sup>st</sup> week of March, 2008.
- Finalize the \$6 million sustainable finance grant proposal with the UNEP for submittal to the GEF by February, 2008.

There are also several opportunities coming up in 2008, to share the initial successes and lessons learned from the MC with the international community, including the International Year of the Reef 2008, the 10th Anniversary of the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force, the 13<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Climate Change (December, 2007 – Bali), and the 9<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (May, 2008 – Bonn, Germany). The MC Working Group looks forward to reporting on additional successes at the 9<sup>th</sup> Western Micronesia Chief Executives Summit in 2008.

## **Health Committee (HC)**

The Pacific Island Health Officers Association (PIHOA) gave an overview of PIHOA's mission in the region and underscored one of PIHOA's priority needs to address Human Resource for Health issues. PIHOA emphasized the need to develop continuing education for our existing workforce as well as support for the educational process from pre-school to medical school. Reports were also given regarding progress in vaccinating the CNMI population with the HPV vaccine in order to prevent cervical cancer and a plan to create a US-affiliated medical school in the CNMI (Loyola Medical College).

The Committee reported that they reviewed the recommendations from the 7<sup>th</sup> WMCES as well as other matters as follows:

- Regarding the mandate to inventory existing health licensing legislation and process in the region, supported by PIHOA funding, a study has been undertaken, which will make recommendations for jurisdiction where such legislation does not exist or needs to be strengthened.
- Reviewed the need to create a Health Data System for use in various jurisdictions.
- Described the need for Community Health Centers in the CNMI.
- Regarding the 1998 Institute of Medicine "Pacific Partnership for Health," no inventory of progress has been made regarding IOM's four recommendations: 1) adopt and support a viable system of community-based primary care and preventive services, 2) improve coordination between jurisdictions and the United States, 3) increase community involvement and investment in health care, and 4) promote education and training of the health care workforce. PIHOA is inviting one of the IOM Board Members to its next PIHOA Board meeting in April 2007 to discuss the feasibility of

the IOM repeating its assessment of health services among the U.S-Associated Pacific Islands.

- CDC's Pacific Emergency Health Initiative has provided emergency preparedness and response training since 2001. PEHI's efforts in the region have been funded through the U.S. Department of Interior and Health Resources & Services Administration. Because of a lack of funding from CDC, PEHI ceased its Pacific operations in October 2006. PIHOA has repeatedly written to CDC and select U.S. Senators petitioning support for PEHI's continued efforts in the region. To date there has been no positive response.

Following-up on initiatives recommended and endorsed by the Chief Executives at the 7<sup>th</sup> WMCES, the Chief Executives endorsed the Health Committee recommendations, as follows:

1. Assist the Region to develop sustainable, reliable laboratory and patient transport mechanisms;
2. Support the PIHOA regional objectives of
  - a. Development of Sustainable Human Resources and
  - b. Development of a working regional laboratory;
3. Support Public Health Departments to vaccinate young women with the HPV vaccine by
  - a. Developing a Vaccination Plan for each Jurisdiction,
  - b. Requesting HPV Vaccines from CDC, and
  - c. Incorporating the HPV Vaccine into the regular vaccination schedule;
4. Support the Pacific Basin Medical Association in its efforts to inventory, assess and develop a needs assessment of current Regional Health Professions and Licensure legislation;
5. Direct the Workforce Investment Council to include health workforce planning and training needs in its overall workforce agenda;
6. Request PIHOA to assess the feasibility of developing a regional health professions registry;
7. Request PIHOA to review the utility of the ESAR-VHP registration process and MRC development to address emergency preparedness and response for the region;
8. Work, through each jurisdiction's Chief Executives, with select members of the U.S. Congress, to insure line-item funding to support and sustain ongoing emergency preparedness training and development for the region by CDC's Pacific Emergency Health Initiative; and
9. Petition, through each jurisdiction's Chief Executives, relevant members of the U.S. Congress to conduct a new Institute of Medicine study with recommendations to assess the region's progress since its 1998 report - "Pacific Partnerships for Health".



## Regional Tourism Committee (RTC)

The Committee reported that the Magnificent Micronesia Brochure was completed in September 2007, featuring all the islands in Micronesia, to be distributed to all NTO's and to be used at trade shows and seminars to promote the islands in the region. The Committee also indicated that the Magnificent Micronesia Website will cost an estimated \$30,000 with each jurisdiction to fund its proportionate share of this cost as committed by the Chief Executives at the 7<sup>th</sup> WMCES. Therefore, the RTC recommends the following breakdown of the funding proposal:

1. Based on the balance of \$2,500 minimum per island.
2. 45% (\$2,500 + \$4,500 = \$7,000)                      Guam  
15% (\$2,500 + \$1,500 = \$4,000)                      CNMI  
15% (\$2,500 + \$1,500 = \$4,000)                      Republic of Palau  
20% (\$2,500 + \$500 = \$3,000)                      FSM (5% for Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei & Kosrae)  
5% (\$2,500 + \$500 = \$3,000)                      RMI

The Committee also reported that several new features were added to the Magnificent Micronesia Newsletter, most relating to marketing the various islands by including feature promotions, e-blast promotions, slideshows with photographs and promoting events on the website.

The RTC continues to participate on on-going annual events, such as the Guam PHARE, Navy MWR and Anderson Travel Show on Guam, as well as the Australia Road Show, Philippines Tour & Travel Expo, PATA Travel Mart and the Diving Equipment Marketing Association Show. These events showcase Micronesia as a region.

The Chief Executives recognized the need for regional marketing and endorsed the following recommendations made by the Committee:

1. To have the PATA Micronesia Chapter serve as the vehicle for RTC's regional initiatives.
2. To allocate funding for Regional Awareness Campaigns. The Chief Executives directed their respective tourism agencies to work together to select Option A or B, as set forth below prior to the next 9<sup>th</sup> MCES.
  - Option A at \$2.00 per capita allows for an estimate of \$800,000 for a three (3) year program paid out in 3 installments over and agreed time schedule.
  - Option B would be \$1.00 per capita to allow for an estimate of \$400,000 for a three (3) year program paid out in 3 installments on an agreed time schedule.

The Chief Executives agreed that PATA-Micronesia Chapter should be responsible for the procurement process in order to attain a professional PR Agency to develop the regional awareness and image message for appropriate use. The agency's responsibilities will include (but is not limited to) identifying a regional branding strategies and issuing of press releases to various media outlets worldwide about the region.

## **Transportation (Transportation Committee)**

In the area of Maritime Security compliance training and assistance, the Transportation Committee reported that the United States Coast Guard (USCG) funded numerous Incident Command System (ICS) anti-terrorism training courses on both Guam and Saipan.

The Committee also reported that the USCG International Port Security Liaison Officer (IPSLO) program is expanding its outreach and focus on training and assistance to help the regional island communities in continuing to meet their maritime security obligations per the International Maritime Organization's International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code.

It was also reported that the USCG Sector Guam successfully lobbied for the establishment of an enrollment center on Saipan for issuing the Transportation Worker Identification Credential to USCG-credentialed mariners and shore workers requiring access to secure areas of regulated port facilities.

In addition, in order to gain eligibility for FY2007 Department of Homeland Security Port Security Grant Program (PSGP) funds, which eligibility was initially denied, the USCG Sector Guam took the initiative to protest this inequitable ruling, resulting in Guam and the CNMI being restored to eligibility.

In the area of Maritime Safety compliance and training and assistance, the USCG Sector Guam conducted Search and Rescue and Safe Boating training for government response agencies, the private marine industry and the general public in Palau in March 2007 and in Chuuk in April 2007.

In the area of Maritime Law Enforcement, the Committee reported that USCG Sector Guam's two Island Class Patrol Boats participated in September 2007's multilateral Operation Big Eye. In addition, it was reported that the USCG Sector Guam will host its second annual international patrol boat training round-up, Exercise Sea Guardian, December 3 - 7, 2007, with participation by the FSM and Palau.

The Chief Executives offered thanks to the USCG for their past support to all of the jurisdictions in enhancing capacity in the areas of Maritime Law Enforcement, Maritime Safety compliance training and assistance, and Maritime Security compliance training and assistance. The Chief Executives reiterated their directives in the 7<sup>th</sup> WMCES Communiqué and once again encouraged the completion of these directives. The Chief Executives emphasized the need to undertake/complete the following:

- Pursue technical assistance from the United States Coast Guard in the areas of retention of compliance and certification.
- Pursue the establishment of a regional work group on aviation and maritime and encourage active involvement in regional events, such as the Pacific Aviation Director's Workshop, sponsored by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the Micronesian Shipping Commission (MSC) and the Association of Terminal Operators, Stevedoring & Shipping Companies of Micronesia (ATOSSCOM).
- Establish uniform pilot rates in all Micronesian sea ports to enhance shipping in the region;
- Develop universal licensing for piloting throughout the region and mandate pilotage in all ports; and
- Support the Republic of Palau, Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands in seeking legislative and regulatory changes that would allow citizens to become licensed merchant seamen that can become crew members of American flag ships.

## **Zoning (Zoning Committee)**

The Zoning Committee met for the first time at the 7<sup>th</sup> WMCES. This first meeting focused on identifying the status of jurisdictional zoning efforts, developing a broad understanding of the zoning needs of each member and pinpointing areas that were appropriate for sub-regional cooperation. At the 8<sup>th</sup> WMCES, the Committee confirmed that the findings and recommendations of the 7<sup>th</sup> WMCES are still pertinent. In order to move forward with concrete responses to identified needs, the Committee recommended that the following actions be implemented to assist all of the jurisdictions in their respective efforts to improve zoning and planning.

- Share experience and advice across the region by keeping each other informed about current activities and of past mistakes and solutions;
- Share training events across the region;
- Participate in regional land use programs and projects, such as the Micronesia Challenge;
- Establish a professional planners' association for the region to support capacity-building and networking; and
- Explore the feasibility of loaning experienced planning staff from the more developed areas for short term visits (1 or 2 weeks) to help jurisdictions such as Yap to organize their data resources and scope out their planning process.

The Chief Executives adopted the recommendations of the Zoning Committee and directed zoning and planning representatives to share experience, advice and training across the regions,

to participate in regional land use programs and projects, to establish a professional planners' association, and to explore the feasibility of loaning experienced planning staff to help other jurisdictions by the next Summit.

## **Miscellaneous Reports:**

### **Pacific Basin Association of Conservation Districts**

The Chief Executives endorsed the full participation of the Territory of Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Republic of Palau and Yap State of the Federated States of Micronesia Soil & Water Conservation Districts with the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD).

Related to the above, the Chief Executives adopted the following statement of support for participation with the NACD and their role in the protection and conservation of natural resources:

“As regional leaders we would like to support the initiative of Pacific Basin Association of Conservation Districts members to request an amendment to Article 2, 2.20 of the NACD Bylaws that lists the fifty U.S. States, District of Columbia, Pacific Basin, Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands, to delete the words “Pacific Basin” and replace with the following: “Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia and American Samoa.”

Under the current NACD Bylaws, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia and American Samoa are lumped together under one umbrella and are recognized by the NACD as a single state association, although we each have separate governmental and political structures.

The Republic of Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia are independent island nations that have separate Compact Agreements with the United States. Under those Compact Agreements our island nations receive support from the United States through the presence of the Natural Resource Conservation Service and the Farm Service Agencies.

Guam and American Samoa are U.S. territories similar to Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Northern Mariana Islands is a Commonwealth of the United States.

## **Conclusion**

The Ninth Summit of the Micronesian Chief Executives will be held in Palau under the chairmanship of the Republic of Palau. The Chief Executives expressed their excitement and gratitude to the National Government of the FSM for accepting the invitation to be the newest member of the Micronesian Chief Executives Summit. The Chiefs look forward to the Ninth

Summit of the Micronesian Chief Executives when they can share and implement ideas with its newest member.

The Chief Executives closed their summit and stressed the need to move forward on prior and new initiatives. They re-committed themselves to implement these sub-regional initiatives across the wide spectrum of issues endorsed over the duration of the Western Micronesia Chief Executive Summits. They agreed that greater coordination and communication among the participants, Summit committees and outside entities was necessary to accomplish this goal. They also committed to better integrating regional issues into ongoing national governmental planning and budget processes.

Governor Fitial thanked all of the participants for their attendance and attention to these pressing issues before the Conference.

/s/ Benigno R. Fitial  
Governor of the Commonwealth  
Of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Felix P. Camacho  
Governor of Guam

/s/ Sebastian Anefal  
Governor of Yap State

/s/ Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr.  
President of the Republic of Palau

/s/ Emanuel Mori  
President  
Federated States of Micronesia  
By: Lorin Robert, Secretary of Foreign Affairs