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Marshall Islands Celebrate Manit Day



President Heine stresses on importance of manit, or culture, during the opening ceremony

Manit Day, a national holiday in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, was held on Friday, 30 September 2016. Organized by the Lutok Kobban Alele Manit Day Coordinating Committee, a week-long of activities took place to preserve and promote



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Marshallese culture with this year's Manit Day theme "Liamwemwe." President Dr. Hilda C. Heine and First Gentleman Thomas Kijiner joined the opening celebration at the Alele Museum area. During the ceremony, President Heine spoke on behalf of the Government while Chairman and Iroij Kotak Loek spoke on behalf of the Council of Iroij. The ceremony included the national anthem led by Co-op School; welcoming remarks from Iroij Leikmaan Zedkaia; and chants by Mr. Biraan Jason and Mrs. Rinok Riklon. Activities included canoe sailing, riwut, urok, canoe paddline, basket and hat weaving, juggling, jurbak/ep in majol, 13 and under battle of the bands, lejonjon, and many others. (Bottom left photo: performance by Rairok Elementary students. Bottom right L-R: Iroij Leikmaan Zedkaia, Iroij Kotak Loek, Iroij Lejje Loek)



President Heine Accepts Credentials of Newly Appointed ROC (Taiwan) Ambassador to the Marshall Islands

During a presentation of credential ceremony, President Dr. Hilda C. Heine accepted the Letter of Credence of newly appointed ROC–Taiwan Ambassador to the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Ambassador Daniel D.W. Tang.

The special ceremony was witnessed by Foreign Minister John M. Silk, Marshall Islands Ambassador Frederick Muller to ROC (Taiwan), Marshall Islands Ambassador Gerald Zackios to the U.S., Government officials, and officials from the ROC–Taiwan Embassy.

President Heine congratulated Ambassador Tang on his new post and wished him a successful tour of duty as ROC–Taiwan Ambassador to the Marshall Islands. The RMI values, and will continue to value, its friendship and cooperative relations with ROC–Taiwan, said President Heine. President Heine extended condolences to the people of ROC (Taiwan) that were affected by the recent Typhoons.

Ambassador Tang conveyed, on behalf of President Dr. Tsai Ing-wen and the people of the ROC–Taiwan, greetings and best wishes to President Heine and the people of the Republic of the Marshall Islands. He expressed his aspirations to build stronger relations to serve the mutual benefits of both countries.

Ambassador Tang previously served as a Consul General in Busan, Republic of Korea from 2013; Executive Secretary/Deputy Director, NGO Affairs Committee, ROC (Taiwan) Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2011–2012); Senior Executive Officer, Minister’s Office, ROC (Taiwan) Ministry of Foreign Affairs; among others.

The presentation of credential ceremony was held at the Cabinet Conference room on Thursday, 29 September 2016.



Photo: President Heine presents Marshallese stick chart and canoe as welcome gifts to Ambassador Tang and Mrs. Tang.



Ambassador Muller Congratulates Ambassador Tang

RMI Ambassador to ROC (Taiwan), Ambassador Frederick Muller, said he looks forward to collaborating with ROC (Taiwan) Ambassador Daniel D.W. Tang and the ROC (Taiwan) Ministry of Foreign Affairs in exploring new opportunities for enhanced cooperation between the two countries. (Photo: Ambassador Muller (L) & Ambassador Tang (R)).



President Dr. Hilda C. Heine, members of the Cabinet, members of the Nitijela (Parliament), joined by visiting RMI Ambassadors and CMI students gathered for a group photo at the Nitijela Chamber, during the last sitting day of the second half of this year's Nitijela session. Following the group photo, Nitijela Speaker Kenneth A. Kedi signed the Bill for the FY2017 Appropriation Financial Act.

President Heine Attends 2016 FSM National Women's Conference

At the invitation of the Yap Women's Association, President Dr. Hilda C. Heine was the keynote speaker at the 4th FSM National Women's Conference held from 3–7 October 2016 in Yap.

The FSM National Women's Conference is held every two years since 2010 and rotates through the States that make up the FSM. The Conference brings together women from across the FSM with delegates and participants from all four states.

From the information provided by the Yap Women's Association, the objective of the Conference is to provide an opportunity for a wide cross section of women from FSM to discuss the many issues directly affecting their respective states.

The theme for this year's Conference is Accessibility: Towards a Sustainable Future with discussions on Education, Health, Justice, Climate Change, Finance, Economic Opportunities, Equality, and Employment.

President Heine is accompanied by Internal Affairs Minister Amenta Matthew, Office of the President Protocol/Logistics Officer Evelyn Lanki, WUTMI Miram de Brum, and Adviser Ruby Tojar.



President Heine, joined by IA Minister Matthew, discussed gender mainstreaming during a courtesy call from SPC Emily Sharp and Sarah Widmer on Saturday, 1 October 2016 at MIR.

Marshall Islands Signals its Intention to Join a New Scheme to Reduce Aviation Emissions; Urges Others to Urgently Follow its Lead

Despite being responsible for a tiny fraction of global emissions, the Republic of the Marshall Islands has signaled its intention to voluntarily join a new global market-based measure to reduce emissions from international aviation, and has urged others to urgently follow its lead. The move comes on the eve of the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' meeting in Pohnpei, and ahead of this month's International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Assembly in Montreal which is due to vote on the final design of the proposed measure in an attempt to stabilize emissions from international aviation.

Emissions from international aviation are growing at an alarming rate. While they only represent 2% of global carbon emissions today, they are forecast to quadruple by 2050. ICAO has already agreed on a target to achieve carbon neutral growth from 2020, and this is endorsed by the aviation industry.

While it is currently proposed that the scheme will initially be voluntary, it is crucial that for it to be effective, as many countries as possible must pledge to join the scheme from the beginning. Only those international flights between countries involved with the scheme will be required to offset their emissions. Analysis suggests that the cost of offsetting a typical long-haul international flight covered by the scheme would be no more than a few dollars.

Speaking following a Cabinet meeting in Majuro, the Minister for Transport & Communications, the Honorable Mike Halferty, said:

“Without a robust and effective market-based measure to reduce aviation emissions, it will be impossible for us to stay within the 1.5°C temperature limit we all agreed in Paris. This means all of us need to do our fair share – every country *and* every sector.”

“Provided ICAO adopts an ambitious resolution guaranteeing environmental integrity and ensures there is a mechanism to regularly review and ramp up ambition, the Marshall Islands intends to be involved from the beginning.”

“It is critical others now follow our lead and pledge to join the new scheme from the start, particularly those which can help ensure the greatest coverage in emissions. There is no point simply having a patchwork of ambition. The very survival of our country depends on this.”

The Minister-in-Assistance to the President, the Honorable Mattlan Zackhras, added:

“The ICAO Assembly is just one of three big opportunities we have this year to take a bite out of the current gap in global ambition. The High Ambition Coalition is also working to secure a comprehensive and ambitious amendment to the Montreal Protocol, and to finally begin the process of setting a target to reduce emissions from the international maritime sector as well.”

Minister-in-Assistance Mattlan Zackhras Upcoming Trips

13–14 October: High-Level Segment of the 28th Meeting of Parties to the Montreal Protocol (Kigali, Rwanda)

18–19 October: Pre-COP Ministerial (Marrakech, Morocco)



President Heine was interviewed by Fareed Zakaria GPS, CNN's program on international issues and foreign policy. The interview's primary focus was on climate change and also included discussions on the Marshall Islands nuclear legacy and emigration. On the legacy of nuclear testing, President Heine stated, "What we are seeking from the U.S. is justice for the people who are relocated, for the health of the people. We don't feel that justice has been accomplished." [Click here for video of the interview](#)

Launching of "Weto in Mour," the First of its Kind in the North Pacific

The first ever "Weto in Mour," a national support service for survivors of violence, was launched on 21 September 2016. This is the first of its kind not only in the Marshall Islands but also in the North Pacific.

The WUTMI program is women-centered, aiming to enable more women and girls throughout the Marshall Islands to live free from violence through the provision of prevention, intervention, and systemic and institutional strengthening activities.

Internal Affairs Minister Amenta Matthew, who was Acting President of the Republic at the time, delivered remarks at the launching of Weto in Mour. In her address, Minister Matthew said the Weto in Mour will play a significant role in the implementation of the Government's priority

outlines in the National Gender Mainstreaming Policy. She announced that for the first time, under the Heine Administration, the Government was able to secure funding to help address domestic violence. For the upcoming fiscal year, the Government has allocated \$120,000 to WUTMI to support Weto in Mour; \$30,000 to hire social workers at Internal Affairs; and \$100,000 to address key areas under the Sustainable development goals- social sector being one.

Minister Matthew expressed appreciation to development partners, particularly the Government of Australia for support and assistance toward the Weto in Mour project through the Pacific Women Sharing Pacific Development Initiative. She conveyed gratitude to President Heine for her on-going support.

Statement Following Initial ICAO Discussion on a Proposed Market-Based Measure to Reduce Emissions from International Aviation

The Minister for Transportation & Communications of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, The Honorable Mike Halferty, released the below statement today (29 September 2016) following initial discussions at the 39th Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) on a proposed global market-based measure to reduce emissions from international aviation.

“Without an effective market-based measure to reduce aviation emissions, it will be impossible to keep temperatures within 1.5 degrees as we all agreed to do in Paris. This is why I have personally made the long journey here to help fight for this measure.”

“Today we heard more than 80 countries speak in favor of the proposed measure, and more than 20 developing countries have already taken the lead by signaling their intention to opt-in to the scheme from the beginning. This includes many – like the Marshall Islands – which have no obligation to participate at all. If we can do it, I hope many more can also do so, including our larger developing country friends.”



“We simply cannot afford to wait another three years for the aviation sector to take action, and we cannot afford anything less than what we have on the table. If we do, the droughts we experience will get more frequent; the storms more intense; and the king tides more severe.”

“It is time to get this done.”



Last Official Kindness of Ambassador Chen to the RMI

Before his departure on Monday, 26 September, Ambassador Winston Chen presented a check to Finance Minister Brenson S. Wase in the amount of \$1,850,000.

This funding is part of the Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan) Annual Grant to the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and serves as the Annual Project Support for the months of July to September 2016.