



KIDID KWŌJKWŌJ

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RMI FILM ON GOOD GOVERNANCE

President Dr. Hilda C. Heine recently participated in a Good Governance Film Project featuring key government posts and the general public on their thoughts and comments on good governance. During her interview, President Heine discussed enhancing good governance in the public sector as one of the top ten priority government reform areas under Agenda



2020: A Framework for Progress. President Heine noted particular areas of focus, such as, strengthening the capability of the Auditor General’s Office; establishing an Ombudsman office which was realized during the Constitutional Convention when it was adopted and inputted into the Constitution earlier this year; and strengthening the oversight and management of the procurement, tax, and customs offices; among others.

The President informed that the Office of the Chief Secretary is working closely with the Marshall

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Islands Council of Non-Governmental Organizations in drafting a Partnership Framework Agreement which will be the first its kind that sets out a formal framework for cooperation between the Government and Civil Society for strengthening transparency and governance. The Asian Development Bank and the World Bank are supporting public financial management reforms to improve accountability, information systems, and procurement, added President Heine.

“The objective is to raise general public awareness on good governance and what the Government is doing to achieve this goal,” said the Good Governance Group Chairman Johnathen Kawakami. “The film’s entirety is in Marshallese and will be broadcasted throughout the Republic.” The film project is led by the Good Governance Group, a sub-committee under the National Steering Committee on the NSP and the SDGs that was established by the Cabinet in 2016.



President Dr. Hilda C. Heine accepted the diplomatic credentials of newly appointed Japan Ambassador to the RMI, Ambassador Norio Saito, during a presentation of credential ceremony held at the Cabinet conference room on 8 October 2018. Ambassador Saito was

PRESIDENT HEINE WELCOMES NEW JAPAN AMBASSADOR

accompanied by his wife, Mrs. Atsuko Saito, and officials from the Embassy of Japan. President Heine congratulated Ambassador Saito for being appointed Japan's second resident Ambassador to the RMI and assured him the fullest cooperation and support from the RMI Government in assisting him discharge his duties. "The RMI remains fully committed to further enhancing diplomatic relations through bilateral and multilateral cooperation with Japan," stated President Heine. Ambassador Saito reciprocated by thanking President Heine for the warm welcome and conveyed greetings from His Majesty Emperor

Akihito to President Heine and the people of the RMI. The Ambassador thanked the RMI Government for supporting Japan on many occasions in the international community and said he looks forward to working with the RMI Government on ways to further elevate relations and areas of mutual cooperation. "I will continue to make the utmost effort to strengthening bilateral relations between Japan and the RMI," stated Ambassador Saito. He wished President Heine continued health and success and the prosperity of the RMI and its people.

RMI TO BENEFIT FROM GEF PROJECTS

OEPPC has reported that from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), RMI has the following projects: 1) Ridge to Reef (R2R) is a \$3.9m project that is being implemented through UNDP. Essentially this project is focused on assisting 5 outer islands/communities (Aur, Ebon, Mejit, Likiep and Wotho) in developing their Resource Management Plan, through the Reimaanlok process (an 8-step conservation area plan). Among others, the expected achievements include: strengthened biodiversity management information systems, traditional ecological knowledge integrated into planning and management of the RMI PAN (Protected Area Network) and over 30,500 hectares of nearshore marine and 502 hectares of terrestrial ecosystems designated as protected areas and placed under enhanced community driven management. This project started early 2018 and ends 2022. 2) RMI Pacific Regional Oceanscape Project (PROP) is a \$2m project that is being implemented through the World Bank and Forum Fisheries Agency. Among others, the PROP supports resource and socio-economic survey, community consultations, public information campaigns, training workshops and facilitation of fisheries management planning in an increasing number of outer islands, ongoing fishery catch and effort data monitoring in association with the fish collection system, through continuation and expansion of the current data collection process, periodic follow-up monitoring, community consultation and information dissemination and extending this process to cover all 24 local government jurisdictions. This project will



PREPARATIONS UNDERWAY FOR RMI-ROC (TAIWAN) 20TH ANNIVERSARY

A coordinating committee was established to prepare for the upcoming 20th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the RMI and ROC (Taiwan). ROC

(Taiwan) Foreign Minister Dr. Jaushieh Joseph Wu (pictured) will lead a delegation to the RMI from 19-21 November. The Committee is chaired by MOFAT.

President Heine Signs Executive Order for Energy Conservation

On 19 October, President Heine signed Executive Order 2018-002 for “immediate energy conservation efforts by consumers, including all Government Ministries, Agencies, and Offices,” following a recent fire incident on one of the generators at the Majuro Powerplant and other ongoing challenges with generation capacity. The Executive Order stated that “the peak load of Majuro cannot be met by current working engine generators, which necessitates power rationing throughout the island.”



President Heine Donates to Breast Cancer Awareness Committee

President Heine received a courtesy call from the representatives of the Breast Cancer Awareness Coordinating Committee at the President’s Office on 17 October. During the courtesy call, the committee representatives provided President with the latest RMI cancer statistics, upcoming awareness events, and stories of courageous cancer survivors. President Heine made a donation to the Committee, supporting efforts toward awareness activities organized by the Committee. The Committee includes members from the Ministry of Health and Human Services, the Breast Cancer Society, Mejerik Club, and the Cancer Support Group, among others.

RMI GEF PROJECTS CONTINUED...

conclude end of 2019. 3) RMI Invasive Alien Species (IAS) project is a \$1m project with UN Environment and presently, the Project Document is being finalized with SPREP and the GEF Secretariat. In correspondence to our draft National Invasive Species Strategic Action Plan (NISSAP) and the Hawaiian and Micronesia Biosecurity Plan, the project aims to strengthen our capacity in addressing mainly terrestrial invasive alien species in selected atolls. This project is expected to commence second quarter of 2019. 4) RMI Aquifer project is a \$1.1m project with UNDP and SPC. This project is yet to commence and essentially this project is looking at upscaling an existing project that is funded by New Zealand government and implemented by RMIEPA. This NZL funded project has successfully measured the underground water lens of Wotje Atoll using The concept was recently approved by the GEF Council and the first meeting to formulate the Project Document will take place in Suva from 22-24 Oct 2018). 5) RMI was allocated \$5.31m (\$5,310,000) for GEF-7 and this to address our commitments under the Rio Conventions (Climate Change, Biodiversity and Land Degradation) along with the Basel Convention, Stockholm Convention and Minamata Convention. OEPPC in its capacity as the operational focal point to the GEF is currently working closely with national and international partners to systematically develop and implement practical programs.

RMI, FIJI, AND USP TO HOST TRANSPORT FORUM

The Governments of the RMI and Fiji along with USP will jointly host the Pacific Islands Transport Forum & Exposition at the USP Laucala Campus from 8-10 November 2018. The Forum provides an opportunity for Pacific Island Ministers and senior officials to meet and discuss decarbonization of the transport sector, to share existing and planned initiatives in the transport sector, to set a vision for the future, and identify the steps needed to achieve that vision. The Expo will run from 7-11 November.

CABINET APPROVALS

On 19 October, the Office of the President and Cabinet released a number of Cabinet decisions made in recent months including the appointment of Mr. Witten T. Philippo as the Associate Justice of the High Court. The Cabinet appointed Mr. Philippo for the post on 9 August 2018. Mr. Philippo's swearing-in ceremony will be held at the Majuro Courthouse on Monday, 29 October. FOR THE CABINET DECISIONS, [CLICK HERE](#).



STATE FUNERAL IN HONOR OF THE LATE VICE SPEAKER JUDA

The State funeral in honor of the late Vice Speaker Tomaki Juda was held at the Nitijela Chamber on 15 October. The late Vice Speaker led the people of Bikini as Mayor and Senator for many years. During the State funeral, Justice Minister Jack Ading delivered remarks on behalf of the Government following remarks from Nitijela Speaker Kenneth Kedi, both praising the late Vice Speaker on his leadership of the people of Bikini.



President Dr. Hilda C. Heine signed the Executive Order No. 2018-001 proclaiming the period from 15-21 October as time of national mourning and further proclaimed for flags to be flown at half-mast in honor of the late Vice Speaker Juda. President Heine expressed condolences, on behalf of the people and Government, to the family and friends of the late Vice Speaker Juda. The late Vice Speaker is survived by his wife Ketruth Juda, 8 children, 32 grandchildren, 5 great grandchildren, & his younger sister Mrs. Jakura Lewis.

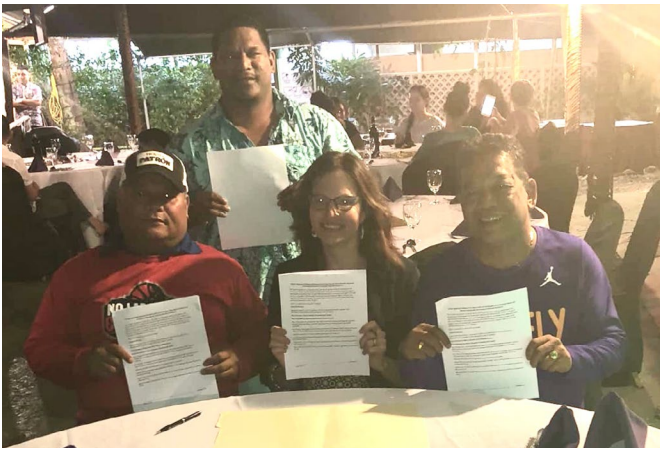


PUBLIC NOTICES FROM THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICE

Mr. Benjamin Kiluwe officially began his new role as the Chief Electoral Officer on 1 October. Mr. Kiluwe previously served as the Assistant Clerk of Cabinet, Special Assistant to the President, and Presidential Aide at the Office of the President and Cabinet. Prior to joining the President's Office in 2013, Mr. Kiluwe was with the MLSC & the RMI Public Defender as a trial counselor and Assistant Clerk of the High Court. The Chief Electoral Office from the Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs released the following public announcements last week- 1) Notice for all persons seeking to be become a Nitijela or Local Government candidate in the RMI, that the nomination paper for such persons was officially opened on 25 October 2018 and shall be close on 31 December 2018. 2) Notice to all qualified voters in the RMI that the closing date for new registration or re-registration of qualified voters for the their selected Electoral District shall be 31 December 2018 at 5pm. FOR THE NOTICES, [CLICK HERE](#).

SUSTAINABLE SEA TRANSPORT

The RMI Government and Okeanos Marshall Islands signed a commitment towards sustainable sea transport services to the remote island communities in the RMI during a signing ceremony held at MIR on 20 October. Signing on behalf of the Government was Minister Thomas Heine, the Minister of Transportation, Communication, and Information Technology while signing on behalf of Okeanos was Okeanos Director Dena Seidal and Okeanos Managing Director Dustin Langidrik. Minister Heine expressed appreciation to Okeanos for supporting the country's NDCs and other sustainable development targets relating to sea transport.



MINISTERS WASE & PAUL ATTEND IMF & WORLD BANK ANNUAL MEETINGS

Finance Minister and RMI World Bank Governor Brenson S. Wase, along with Minister-in-Assistance David Paul led the RMI delegation to the 2018 Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank Group in Bali, Indonesia, from 9-14 October. The Annual Meetings brought together central bankers and ministers of finance and development, and others, to discuss issues of global concern, including the world economic outlook,



global financial stability, poverty eradication, jobs and growth, economic development, aid effectiveness and climate change. The meetings provided an opportunity for the RMI Government to meet with officials from the IMF and World Bank, along with Government representatives from other Small Island Developing States to address a range of issues including climate change adaptation, funding complexities and the urgent need for streamlined and simplified funding pathways. The meetings were an opportunity for RMI Government to strengthen relationships with the IMF and World Bank. In particular, RMI Ministers met with Victoria Kwakwa, Vice President at the World Bank for East Asia and the Pacific who will be visiting RMI in November 2018 to inspect progress on a range of World Bank projects in the RMI.



RMI REPRESENTED AT THE 48TH IPCC

National Weather Service Office Director Reginald White and Advisor Mahendra Kumar represented the RMI at the 48th IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) meeting held recently in Incheon, Republic of Korea. The key matter for the meeting was to consider the Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 °C. Representatives of the IPCC's 195 members governments and scientists from the IPCC met to finalize the Summary for Policymakers of the report: Global Warming of 1.5 °C, an IPCC special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty. The report, known as SR15, will be the main scientific input to the Talanoa Dialogue in the Katowice Climate Change Conference (COP24) in December this year in Poland. The Report has particular importance for RMI and SIDS, not only because they were instrumental in requesting for such a report, but it has important ramifications for future response to climate change.



RMI HELPS LAUNCH GLOBAL COMMISSION ON ADAPTATION

On 16 October, Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister John M. Silk represented President Dr. Hilda C. Heine at the launching of the newly created Global Commission on Adaptation. The RMI is one of the 18 founding nations of the Commission (& Convenor) an unprecedented and timely international initiative

on adaptation “focusing on solutions and catalyzing the global adaptation movement and accelerating action.” Minister Silk took part in the first Meeting of the Commission overseen by former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation co-Chair Bill Gates and World Bank CEO Kristalina Georgieva. Together with Former UNFCCC Executive Secretary and Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) Summit Champion Christiana Figueres, Minister Silk drew the attention of the Commission to the forthcoming CVF Virtual Summit on 22 November and urged the participating governments to

ensure their leaders took full advantage of the Summit to promote ambitious climate action. During the trip, Minister Silk had a bilateral meeting with Germany expressing appreciation to the ongoing support from Germany for CVF and V20 activities. Minister Silk also met with the delegation of Grenada to discuss Grenada’s important participation in the upcoming CVF. The Minister was also interviewed by the Dutch national newspaper, Volkskrant, and highlighted the challenges facing the Marshall Islands due to climate change and the solutions the government is pursuing to address the challenges.

RMI AND FAS ENGAGE ON DRAFT US IMMIGRATION RULE

On Tuesday, October 9th, the US Department of Homeland Security formally published a 400 page draft rule, allowing 60 days for public comment. The draft rule provides specific procedures for immigrants applying for a “Green card” permanent resident status in the US, or otherwise applying for admission to the US. These procedures would require proof that an individual is not likely to become a “public charge” upon entry into the US, such as becoming reliant upon US public subsidies for housing, food or other US government assistance. RMI’s Embassy in Washington DC had already initiated some early discussions with the US State Department, prior to the rule’s formal publication this week. “RMI has undertaken a preliminary study of the draft rule. Our initial analysis reveals some serious questions over possible implications for the Compact and FAS citizens. But I want to emphasize this is only a draft - it is subject to change and there is not yet a date where it becomes final.” said RMI Foreign Minister John Silk. “The Compact’s provisions allowing Marshallese to enter the US have always been subject to US immigration law, and now may be defined differently. Our first step is to discuss possible implications with the US, and to find out how they might intend to enforce this with FAS citizens. We



PRESIDENT HEINE MEETS CLIMATE YOUTH ACTIVIST

President Heine met with youth climate activist Ms. Miko Vergun and Miko’s mother, Mrs. Vergun, at the Cabinet conference room earlier this month. Miko, along with other “climate kids” aged 10-

21 are campaigning for climate justice and have filed a climate lawsuit against the United States Government. check out: <http://www.youthvgovthefilm.com/youth/>

Minister Kaneko Commends Staff at General Assembly

The Ministry of Health and Human Services held its 2nd General Assembly to discuss relevant issues and significant accomplishments that were made. In his opening remarks, Minister of Health and Human Services Kalani Kaneko touched on the Ministry's goals, upcoming fiscal year, and updates from his office. Being that this month is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, he encouraged all women to get their mammogram. Minister Kaneko commended the staff for their positive contributions and anticipates another successful collaborated effort within the Ministry.



RMI Join ROC (Taiwan) Sea Patrol Mission

President Heine and First Gentleman Kijiner were welcomed onboard the ROC (Taiwan) Coast Guard Ship Hsun-Hu No.7 that visited the RMI from 9-15 October. President Heine and First Gentleman met with the ROC (Taiwan) Coast Guard Delegation led by Mr. Tsai, Chang-Meng, Deputy Director-General of the Coast Guard Administration of the Ocean Affairs Council of the ROC (Taiwan). The main purpose of the visit was to further promote goodwill and friendship between the two countries and to enhance cooperation following the Agreement on Coast Guard Cooperation that was signed in Taipei on July 27, 2018. The Vessel left Majuro with five RMI law enforcement crew on a five-day joint sea patrol mission in the RMI EEZ.

DRAFT US IMMIGRATION RULE CONTINUED...

are sparing no effort in engagement, and ensuring that we all follow the right process so everyone listens closely to each other.” RMI Ambassador to the US Gerald Zackios stated that “the US immigration act has contained these provisions for a long time, as FAS citizens have always been “non immigrants” and now the new rule’s intent is to clarify, in greater detail, that those seeking to enter the US have the intention to live and work without an additional burden on public funds. While I understand how this new analysis would work in a visa application process, it isn’t yet clear what this means on a practical basis for FAS citizens, given that we are not required to apply for visas under the Compact,” said the Ambassador. “This draft rule address US immigration generally and broadly - it was not written specifically to address FAS citizens or the Compact. So first we need a calm discussion to better understand how the US might intend to apply these provisions, and then, if needed, we will consider further diplomatic avenues for engagement”. RMI has already raised this with FSM and Palau Ambassadors in DC to discuss how the three FAS can jointly address the draft rules. Ambassador Zackios also drew attention to the 60 day public comment period. “While RMI government is putting all effort into political engagement, Marshallese communities or individuals - including those in the US - may seek to engage in the public comment process, or may wish to seek legal advise in doing so. This process is usually the basis for any later legal challenges.”

RMI TO HOST CVF VIRTUAL SUMMIT

The RMI will host the 2018 Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) Virtual Summit on 22 November. During the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) held in Nauru in September, Pacific Leaders expressed support of the CVF Virtual Summit and called on world leaders to take part. As recognized in the PIF Communique, climate change is the single greatest threat to the livelihood of all Pacific People. The CVF Summit hopes to voice the most vulnerable, including all Pacific Islanders, to contribute to increased ambition in climate action and the call for urgent action by all countries by 2020 to achieve targets set by the Paris Agreement.

RMI ELECTRICITY ROADMAP

The Energy Planning team from the Ministry of NRC met with President Heine earlier this month to discuss the RMI Electricity Roadmap called “Navigating Our Energy Future: Marshall Islands Electricity Roadmap.” A presentation on the Roadmap, in association with the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade, was held this week and open for discussion to members from the general public with interest in the future energy options of the RMI. The Roadmap, slated to launch at COP24 in Poland, builds on RMI NDCs or Renewable Energy Targets and illustrate the pathways to achieve them.



MINISTER MOMOTARO URGE FOOD SECURITY & DISASTER PREPAREDNESS EFFORTS

President Dr. Hilda C. Heine attended the ceremony commemorating World Food Day and the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction held at Delap Park on October 13. Speaking at the ceremony, on behalf of the Government, NRC Minister Dennis Momotaro said the Government is committed to strengthening food and nutrition security, and efforts in mitigation and disaster preparedness. The Minister encouraged increased efforts in these important areas



for “a truly sustainable future for all,” as espoused under Agenda 2020: A Framework for Progress, the SDGs, and The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. He said that economic losses from disasters deprive Government of funds to spend in other important areas and undermine efforts in achieving RMI’s sustainable development targets. The ceremony was organized by the Ministry of NRC and the Office of the Chief Secretary in collaboration with CMI Land Grant, the Marshall Islands Red Cross, the ROC (Taiwan) Technical Mission, and the International Organization for Migration, among others.



KABUA NEW EBEYE CLIMATE CHANGE COORDINATOR

Ebeye-based OEPPC Climate Change Coordinator Bernadette Kabua was one of 15 women from across the Pacific that participated in a climate change negotiators workshop held in Suva earlier this month. Supported by Australia, the three-day workshop was hosted by the PIFS and facilitated by WEDO. According to PIFS, this is the sixth workshop supported by Australia, part of an ongoing program designed to amplify Pacific women’s voices in climate diplomacy. WEDO has been supporting the leadership of women in the UN climate negotiations for nearly a decade now via a program entitled the Women Delegates Fund. The Fund provides both direct travel support to women to attend the climate change meetings such as COP24, as well as capacity building opportunities such as the workshop. The workshops are a “response to growing evidence of issues stemming from intersections between gender equality and a rapidly changing climate, and addresses the critical role women negotiators can play in addressing them” stated PIFS press release.