

Taiyo Micronesia holds ribbon cutting ceremony for fish meal and dried skipjack plant in Dekehtik

By *Bill Jaynes*
 The Kaselehlie Press

February 2, 2018

Pohnpei—Taiyo Micronesia Corporation (TMC) held a ribbon cutting ceremony in Dekehtik this afternoon for a “katsuobushi” (dried, fermented, smoked skipjack tuna) and feed meal processing plant on the premises of the cold storage plant.

National Fisheries Corporation (NFC) CEO Peter Sitan said that the plant is not yet in commercial operation pending approval of some permits that are in process. It is also awaiting the arrival of a larger feed mill that he said should

arrive within two months. He said that the plan then would be to produce and sell feed meal in the local market first in Pohnpei and then potentially in the other states. He said that the feed for livestock would be less expensive than imported feed. Katsuobushi, a quintessential topping in Japanese cuisine would be primarily for export.

The plant is a TMC and NFC joint venture. Sitan said that the plant currently employs 10 local employees but that after it is in full operation will hire 10 more employees.

Among others, FSM dignitaries at the ceremony included FSM President Peter M. Christian, FSM Resources and Development Secretary Marion Henry, Lieutenant Governor Reed



See “Ribbon Cutting” on page 10

FSMTC and newly formed Submarine Cable Company, FSMT Cable Corporation sign landmark long term facility sharing and capacity agreement

FSMT Cable Corporation, the country’s newly established Open Access Entity (OAE), and FSMTC, the country’s incumbent full-service telecommunications company, entered into an IRU Deed Agreement this past Friday February 2nd, 2018 in Pohnpei.

The agreement is the culmination of arduous work by the parties, as well as members of the FSM Congress, the Office of the President, the Department of Finance & Administration, the Department of Transportation, Communication & Infrastructure, and many others including key stakeholders in each of the FSM states. This agreement establishes the shared use of the sole existing submarine cable to FSM, HANTRU-1, as well as the close cooperation of the parties in the efficient use of the new submarine cables for Yap, Chuuk and Kosrae, and the FSMTC facilities required to connect them to all the states of FSM. As the provider of international and domestic broadband connectivity solutions to the telecommunications industry in FSM, FSMT Cable Corporation enters this long-term agreement with FSMTC with plans for a long and



See “Cable Agreement” on page 4

In this EDITION of the KPress:

PUC cuts off power to FSMTC over a long disputed bill

Page 2

Vital FSM Petroleum Corporation announces price increase

Page 3

Australian Embassy to the FSM hosts Australia Day celebration

Page 6

US Navy Medical Corps members provide services in Pohnpei

Page 9

Rotary receives rheumatic heart disease scanners

Page 15

IN THIS ISSUE



POHNPEI

Majuro | Tarawa | Nauru
 Nadi | Honiara | Brisbane

LOWEST FARES

...Ribbon Cutting

Continued from front page

Oliver as Acting Governor, Pohnpei Legislature Speaker Fernando Scaliem, and Iso Nahnken of Nett Salvador Iriarte.

Mr. Shigeru Ito, President of the Maruha Nichirio Group, the parent company of TMC gave remarks. The Maruha Nichirio Group that Mr. Ito runs has 160 companies under its umbrella including TMC. He said during his remarks that when TMC first started its business in the FSM in conjunction with NFC six years ago, it had only two purse seiners but that they now had six FSM flagged vessels.

Mr. Nobuyuki Wakasa, TMC President said that several years ago, Secretary Henry told him that while it was good to have fishing operations, the company should seriously look at on shore operations. Wakasa said that the company started to consider the possibility and conducted feasibility studies. The katsubushi and feed meal plant was the result of their studies. Other potential ventures that they looked at were not financially feasible.

Sitan later said that one of the difficulties with conducting industrial businesses in the FSM was the high cost of power as compared to other international locations.

Before the ribbon cutting for the new plant, Iso Nahnken Salvador Iriarte gave traditional closing remarks. While mentioning that the venture did not yet have a Nett District business license, he welcomed the new venture to Nett. He repeated a message he has given before encouraging the business owners to operate with respect (wahu), responsibility (pwukoah), and honesty (mehlel).

Wakasa and NFC Board Chairman Stoney Taulung each offered toasts for the success of the new plant.

Iso Nahnken of Nett Salvador Iriarte, Maruha Nichirio Group President Shigeru Ito, Acting Governor Reed Oliver, Secretary Marion Henry and TMC President Nobuyuki Wakasa participated in cutting the ribbon for the new processing plant after which tours were conducted of the plant. Afterward, interested people could take a tour of the not quite completed plant.

Later Sitan said that when the feed meal plant is operational it will be able to handle fisheries by-catch, the non-targeted fish that are caught by purse seiners and long liners, and that would eliminate some of the waste.

Sitan was not fully versed on the details on how waste water from the plant would be handled in order to avoid introducing reef killing nutrients into the ecosystem but said that the factor had been considered and that there would be little to no impact.

At press time, KPress had not yet been able to follow up on that matter with EPA or other entities that might know how that the waste water would be handled but will attempt to do so for the February 26 issue.

Sitan also said that TMC had previously thought that their Foreign Investment Permit with the National Government that covered their fisheries operations would also cover the new shore based plant. He said that Secretary Henry told them that even though he had asked the company to conduct onshore business the new business venture would require a foreign investment permit from the Pohnpei State Government. Sitan said that paperwork is in process.



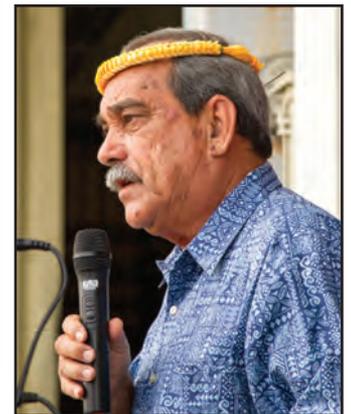
Shigeru Ito



Iso Nahnken Salvador Iriarte



Secretary Marion Henry



President Peter Christian



TMC local employees part out skip jack



Nobuyuki Wakasa



Acting Governor Reed Oliver

FSM commences climate change and disaster risk finance assessment

Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

POHNPEI, FSM — With a view to advancing their national climate change and disaster risk management priorities, 40 representatives from government departments, state governments, donor partners, private sector, and non-governmental organizations gathered in Pohnpei on Wednesday, Jan. 31, to participate in the introductory workshop for the Federated States of Micronesia's climate change and disaster risk finance assessment.

In partnership with the government of the Federated States of Micronesia, a joint assessment team led by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, alongside the Pacific Community, with funding from the USAID/SPC Institutional Strengthening in Pacific Islands Countries to Adapt to Climate Change Project, and the USAID Climate Ready Project, will be consulting with a broad range of stakeholders throughout the assessment period from Jan. 29 to Feb. 9, 2018.

Opening the introductory workshop, the secretary for the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management, Andrew Yatilman, stressed the importance of ensuring that the climate change and disaster risk finance assessment report has utility for the FSM national government and the states — Pohnpei, Chuuk, Yap and Kosrae.

He encouraged participants to be open and to share information, with the team, so that the results of the assessment take account of the unique context of FSM.

“There are many sources of funding out there, but we do not need to access everything. We must be strategic and only pursue sources that are in line with our country priorities and commensurate with our absorptive capacity,” said Secretary Yatilman, who is the focal point for this assessment.

Marion Henry, secretary of the Department of Resources and Development, is of the view that “the assessment is critical to provide

FSM options on how it could scale-up financing for big projects in sectors such as energy, water and food security.”

Sihna Lawrence, secretary of Finance and Administration and the GCF NDA added that this assessment will provide a mapping of the extent of readiness for potential GCF national implementing entities, in particular the FSM Development Bank and FSM Petrocorp.

FSM has already made significant progress in their commitment to prioritizing increased access to climate change and disaster risk financing, with the Micronesia Conservation Trust becoming an accredited regional implementing entity to the Green Climate Fund or GCF in 2017, and FSM being the first country in the Pacific to develop their GCF Country Program, with the support of GCF readiness funding.

The joint mission will build on work already in progress, by undertaking an assessment of the practical application of options for improved access to and management of, climate change and disaster risk finance, for the FSM. FSM is the ninth Pacific Island

Country to undertake a national climate change and disaster risk finance assessment.

The assessment report and recommendations will identify opportunities to develop or update relevant policies and plans, strengthen human capacity, enhance institutional coordination and ensure that cross-cutting issues like gender and social inclusion are mainstreamed and supported.

The results will be of benefit not only to support improved and direct access to international climate finances, but they will also enhance donor confidence and utilization of country systems.