



JOINT COMMUNIQUE

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

Introduction

The Chief Executives of the Governments of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Territory of Guam, the Federated States of Micronesia and its states, Yap, Kosrae, Pohnpei and Chuuk, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palau held their Fourteenth Micronesia Chief Executives' Summit (MCES) in Koror, Republic of Palau, on December 15-17, 2010. This Summit resulted in the adoption of regional programs of action in the focal areas of solid waste management, conservation through the Micronesia Challenge and related environmental programs, renewable energy, invasive species, health, transportation, workforce investment, communications and tourism. The Summit also moved forward on efforts to develop the Micronesia Center for a Sustainable Future (MCSF), making use of an inception grant from the Department of Interior. The Summit also resulted in actions in miscellaneous areas of concern to the sub-region.

The Summit reaffirmed the commitment of each of the participants, on behalf of their people and their governments, to continue to establish closer ties, expand future discussions and agree on beneficial initiatives for the benefit of the entire Micronesia Region.

His Excellency, the Honorable Johnson Toribiong of Palau, as Chairman, expressed his appreciation to the Chief Executives and their jurisdictional representatives for their attendance and active participation in the Fourteenth Micronesia Chief Executives' Summit. He also recognized the attendance of many of the region's international diplomats and U.S. representatives, including the Assistant Secretary for the Department of the Interior, Anthony Babauta. Special thanks were given to Ambassador Maggie Taiching Tien, Republic of China (Taiwan), for her country's financial assistance in hosting the 14th MCES.

His Excellency, the Honorable Emanuel Mori, as the Secretary General of the MCSF, also expressed his appreciation to each Chief Executive, as well as the Designated Representatives and delegations of each jurisdiction.

Following the opening ceremonies of the Summit, which included statements by each of the Chief Executives, reports and recommendations from regional committees were given, along with presentations on a number of issues of interest in the region, as reflected in this 14th Communiqué.

Micronesia Regional Invasive Species Council (RISC)

The RISC Committee reported that cooperation through RISC has yielded significant progress in the advancement of invasive species awareness, prevention, and control in Micronesia, cooperation which is essential for both regional and local success.

Regarding recent activities, the Committee reported that the RISC calendar for 2011, an important awareness-raising tool, will be completed in December and distributed in early 2011. The calendar was funded by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), and coordinated by the RISC Secretary. In addition, RISC members have supported the development of the Micronesia Biosecurity Plan (MBP) by providing local expertise to federal scientists who are completing risk and pathway analysis reports that form the basis for the MBP. The scientific reports are due on March 2011 and RISC will coordinate an informal review of these reports by local experts in each jurisdiction. RISC participation in the development process will help ensure that the final MBP will accurately portray priorities and needs within Micronesia for restricting the introduction and spread of invasive species throughout Micronesia.

To plan for the eventual implementation of the MBP, a proposal to develop a Strategic Implementation Plan was submitted to the Department of Defense (DOD) for funding.

The Chief Executives recognized the accomplishments of the Committee and reaffirmed their commitment to:

- Provide a permanent and full-time Invasive Species Coordinator for each jurisdiction;
- Identify, in writing to the Chair of RISC, two representatives to RISC from each state and national jurisdiction;
- Send RISC representatives to two workshop-style meetings per year, in addition to the Summits, to collaborate on invasive species issues and priority actions;
- 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;
- Continue to instruct invasive species coordinators and other appropriate staff to participate actively in the development of the Micronesia Biosecurity Plan (MBP); and
- Support MCSF assistance in funding the strategic action plan and emergency response training for RISC members in April 2011.

In addition, in support of the efforts of the Committee, the Chief Executives signed a letter requesting the SPC to fill the position of Plant Protection Specialist for Micronesia in 2011.

Regional Workforce Development Council (RWDC)

The RWDC and Pacific Workforce Investment Workgroup (PWIW) reported on their efforts to continue to nurture and support the regional economic strategies guided by the Workforce Innovation Regional Economic Development (WIRED) principles and Strategic Doing! (*Micronesia Works...Shaping Regional Talent Development Systems*). This approach continues to deliver and update the provisions of the RWDC 5-year strategic plan. The RWDC and PWIW held a technical meeting in Koror, Republic of Palau on December 13-14, 2010 with participating delegates and observers, including the Center for Micronesian Empowerment (CME). Area reports highlighted program updates and workforce investment/development strategic opportunities and discussions included council updates and specific RWDC recommendations presented for endorsement.

The Chief Executives took the following actions in support of the RWDC recommendations:

- Endorsed a follow-up letter to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Labor regarding the status of the MCES Regional Job Corps Initiative;
- Endorsed the importance of extending training opportunities through the Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) to expand into the region -- This includes leveraging the existing PTAC structures that exist in Guam, and including related programming support strategies such as the Small Business Development Center through the Small Business Administration (SBA);
- Supported the STEAM initiative that provides for the positioning of the K-12 and post-secondary educational delivery systems to support Science, Technology, Engineering, Agriculture/Aquaculture and Math talent development skill sets;
- Endorsed the extension of invitations by the RWDC to all regional Chambers of Commerce to support the E-commerce regional initiative and to include active partnering of the Small Business Administration and U.S. Department of Agriculture programs and access to program resources;
- As it relates to the Guam Military Buildup, endorsed the expansion of the National Defense Authorization Act's area of solicitation to include specific recruitment strategies that allow priority to U.S. and Micronesian workers in support of the MCES Micronesia Works interests; and
- Recognized the positive contributions to the MCES RWDC Strategic plan made by certain collaborative entities (Center for Micronesian Empowerment and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community) and endorsed their resolutions specific to the provisions defined in the 5-year strategic plan goal areas and objectives.

Micronesia Challenge

The Micronesia Challenge (MC) Steering Committee reported to the Chief Executives that since the 13th Micronesian Chief Executive Summit, progress has been made on implementation of the Micronesia Challenge. The Steering Committee provided an update on the election of new officers: CNMI Focal Point Fran Castro as Chair, RMI Focal Point Yumi Crisostomo as Vice-chair, and Guam Focal Point Vangie Lujan as Secretary. The Committee thanked outgoing Chair

Marion Henry, Focal Point from the FSM, for his leadership over the past 3 years. Palau will host the MC Regional Office and is currently identifying an appropriate space.

The MC Committee reported that they have drafted a Five-Year Strategic Action Plan for the Steering Committee and Regional Office, articulating their vision, mission, goals and objectives, and clarifying roles and responsibilities, which is to be finalized by the end of January 2011. The Committee has agreed to reduce annual dues to \$10,000 per jurisdiction to be contributed at the beginning of each fiscal year. Charlene Mersai resigned as Regional Coordinator in October to pursue other interests and the Committee thanked her for hard work for the past two years. The Regional Coordinator position terms of reference will be advertised once finalized. The MC Committee also reported on conservation measures, fundraising and sustainable finance, and communications. For conservation measures, the MC regional database, coordinated by the Office of the Palau Automated Land and Resource Information System (PALARIS), is currently being piloted. A workshop on standardizing marine data collection and analysis with participants throughout Micronesia was held in Saipan, CNMI in November 2010, with support from NOAA.

Regarding fundraising, Governor Fitial presented an “ask” for support for all jurisdictions in the Challenge at the last U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Meeting in Guam, Saipan, and Pohnpei in September 2010. NOAA is currently working to secure approximately \$1.5-2M annually in their budgets as a result of his request. Palau’s Green Fee has raised a total of nearly \$1.3 million since the inception of the program in November 2009 and the Protected Areas Network Board is being chartered.

In addition, the MC Regional Business Plan draft is under review by the MC Focal Points and appropriate agencies in each jurisdiction and will be finalized by the end of December. The plan will then be presented to the Chief Executives for review and endorsement.

As to Communications, the Committee reported that Guam and CNMI have initiated the MC Marketing, Outreach & Sustainable Support Plan, including the redesign of the website (www.micronesiachallenge.org), featuring interactive newsletters to be updated quarterly, and a series with episodes focusing on different aspects of the MC. A Sponsorship Drive will be launched in January 2011.

The Committee also provided an update on the MC Young Champions program which includes new interns for the CNMI (2), Guam (1), the RMI (1), the FSM (1), and Palau (2).

The MC Committee then briefed leaders on the next steps that need to be taken to move the MC forward, including:

- Implementation of recommendations for sustainable financing at the jurisdictional level identified in the MC Regional Business Plan;
- Securing additional funding for a regional terrestrial measures workshop (currently \$16,000 has been secured from The Nature Conservancy); and
- Collaboration with other environmental initiatives (e.g., invasive species, solid waste, energy, MCSF, etc.)

Based on the recommendations of the MC Steering Committee, the Chief Executives supported the following activities:

- Engagement in bi-lateral and multi-lateral high level discussions to leverage support for the MC;
- Continued support for policies for on-the-ground conservation and mainstreaming of environmental efforts in development plans; and
- Continued promotion of the MC at the regional and international levels to sustain interest in the initiative and help fundraising efforts for both the endowment and ongoing regional work, especially at the following meetings:
 - The U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Meeting in Washington, DC in February 2011;
 - The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit in Hawaii in November 2011;
 - The 17th Conference of the Parties to the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP16) in South Africa in November –December 2011.

Regional Energy Committee

The Energy Committee reported that the Green Energy Micronesia initiative continues to serve as the platform for regional response to the issue of climate change mitigation, and in that context, jurisdictions continue active on-the-ground Energy Efficiency (EE) and Renewable Energy RE projects and research to meet the 20-30-20 Target.

The Committee also reported on a number of regional information sharing activities, including:

- The First Polynesia/Micronesia Regional Symposium on Energy Security - held in Saipan (Oct.19-21, 2010) and hosted by the Energy Development in Island Nations (EDIN) partnership, where Palau reviewed its Energy Efficiency Subsidy Program and the Renewable Energy Financing Program;
- The Center for Island Sustainability Conference – to be held in 2011 to launch the Guam MCSF Energy Policy Network; and
- National initiatives to develop country specific energy sector websites for regional and international sharing and accessibility energy data, statistics and projects.

In addition, the Committee noted current and potential funding sources critical to moving forward with national and regional energy planning and implementation, including:

- The European Union – EDF10 North REP funds and installation of country based energy specialists for each of the FAS countries; and
- U.S Government ARRA funds for RE and EE to each of the U.S. Territories.

The goal of the Committee is to assess how each of these funds can be accessed to support or co-fund regional energy initiatives such as the Micronesia Energy Association (MEA).

The Committee also reported on the Framework for Action on Energy Security in the Pacific, which was finalized and adopted by Energy Representatives of each jurisdiction. The Committee acknowledged the primacy of National Energy Policies and Plans as the principal mechanism for achieving energy security in the Pacific.

Finally, the Committee reported that the success of the Micronesia Energy Association requires:

- Continued engagement with the SPC, the Pacific Regional leader on energy issues;
- Formulation of a regional energy 'Road Map';
- Assessment of the capacities needed in various jurisdictions, including the MEA;
- Assessment of available and potential financing options and the development of a sustainable financing plan; and
- A clearly defined partnership-framework with all relevant development partners and stakeholders of the energy sector in a coordinated whole-of-sector approach to energy issues at the regional level.

The Chief Executives noted the recommendations of the Committee and directed the Committee to continue the tasks necessary to implement their recommendations.

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

After being provided an update regarding the various projects and conference participations of PIRRIC members, the Chief Executives supported the following recommended PIRRIC Committee project opportunities and activities in the region:

- The updating and funding of an internet portal that will allow the uploading of and access to waste management related documents for the region;
- The participation by PIRRIC in a proposed Pacific Islands Regional Recycling workshop hosted by the U.S. EPA;
- The participation by PIRRIC at Guam's Center for Island Sustainability Conference in partnership with the University of Guam;
- Palau's hosting of the Pacific Islands Environment Conference in September 2011 in partnership with US EPA, Region IX; and
- The proposed participation by PIRRIC in preparatory meetings for "Rio + 20" to demonstrate regional cooperation in addressing common issues regarding solid waste management and other related issues.

Regional Tourism Committee Report

The Regional Tourism Committee reported that the PATA Micronesia Chapter recently held its 3rd Tri-Annual Meeting in Guam, December 1-3, with its next Tri-Annual Meeting scheduled for Kosrae in April 2011. It is at these meetings that PATA Micronesia Chapter continues to pursue

its efforts in regard to regional marketing and promotional efforts, providing the following updates.

- **Update #1 – Regional Branding Initiative:** The following have been completed:
 - Development of a Request for Proposal (RFP);
 - An RFP has been announced globally;
 - A selection committee has been established with members from each jurisdiction; and
 - RFP proposals have been received and reviewed by the selection committee for their recommendation to the PATA Micronesia Chapter Chairman.

The following action steps are pending:

- Identify funding sources (i.e. U.S. Federal Grants, PATA Micronesia Chapter, Airlines, NTOs/STOs, or other private funding sources); and
 - Award of contract to the selected bidder.
- **Update #2 – Marketing Outreach to the Military Market:** With the support of the Micronesian Chief Executives, the PATA Micronesia Chapter has been successful with the following marketing and promotional initiatives for the 3rd Quarter of 2010:
 - The PATA Micronesia Chapter booth at the GMIF in Guam;
 - On-going creation of package deals for each island destination;
 - The “Wahoo Night” Exhibition by Micronesian Divers Association in October 2010 in Guam attended by CNMI, Guam, Palau, Kosrae, Chuuk and Yap;
 - The Navy MWR Travel Fair in October 2011 in Guam with exhibitions by CNMI, Palau, Kosrae, Chuuk, Yap and the Marshall Islands;
 - The Andersen Air Force Base Travel Fair in October 2011 in Guam, with exhibitions by the CNMI, Palau, Kosrae, Chuuk, Yap and the Marshall Islands; and
 - On-going Print Advertisements in R&R Pacific Magazine by CNMI and Palau.
 - **Update #3 – Luxury Cruise Market:** Recognizing the Luxury Cruise business as a highly potential niche market for the region, PATA Micronesia Chapter has initiated marketing strategies, to include:
 - A Micronesia presentation at the Miami Cruise Conference in March 2011 in Miami, Florida;
 - Micronesia Cruise Association (MCA) definition and membership;
 - Cruise Ship Industry Goals and Strategies, and MCA Five-Year Objectives;
 - Cruise Ship Activity;
 - Developing A Port Profile by each jurisdiction; and
 - Creation of a Cruise Ship Task Force.

The Chief Executives supported the recommendations of the Tourism Committee and directed the Committee as follows:

- Encourage government partnership in identifying sites for nomination as World Heritage sites in recognition of the importance of preservation and sustainable development;
- Solicit proposals from qualified companies to do a study of the economic impact of the tourism industry in the Micronesia region;
- Provide support to Congresswoman Madeleine Bordallo's Bill (HR 6015) to require the Director of the Bureau of Economic Analysis of the U.S. Department of Commerce to publish certain economic data regarding territories, including the Freely Associated States, and
- Seek the support of their jurisdictions to collectively and respectively finance the active participation in Trade/Travel Shows/Exhibitions/Seminars, etc. in key markets.

Regional Health Committee (HC)

The Regional Health Committee gave a status report on the crisis of non-communicable diseases in the region and on recent outcomes resulting from PIHOA Resolution 48-01, "Declaring a Regional State of Health Emergency due to the Epidemic of Non-Communicable Diseases in USAPI". This Resolution was passed by the Pacific Island Health Officers Association in May of 2010 and endorsed by the 13th MCES in Saipan, CNMI, in June 2010. Since that time, other key organizations have endorsed the resolution, including:

- The 10th Micronesian President's Summit;
- The 5th Micronesian Traditional Leaders Conference; and
- The 51st meeting of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, which identified the NCD crisis as the theme for its next meeting.

The Regional Health Committee emphasized the importance of continuing to align international, regional and sub-regional bodies behind comparable resolutions, declarations and commitments that address the NCD crisis. Such harmonization will help leverage and coordinate resources and significantly strengthen mandates locally for more effective community-based efforts related to NCD prevention and control.

The Regional Health Committee reminded MCES participants that the world's fattest countries and territories are in the Pacific. Among Pacific entities, the USAPI rank the highest in obesity and some indicators for NCDs. For all MCES countries, NCDs are the leading causes of death, hospital admissions, off-island medical referrals, hemodialysis, disability, and loss of productivity. Rates of childhood obesity are rising in the USAPI, and if left unchecked, NCDs will significantly impede the economic and social development of MCES countries. Non-communicable diseases—including diabetes, hypertension, stroke, heart disease, and gout—are lifestyle-related diseases caused significantly by obesity, poor nutrition, tobacco use, alcohol abuse and lack of physical activity—all avoidable conditions with a coordinated, cross-sectoral approach to prevention.

The Health Committee emphasized the importance of executive leadership in:

- Mobilizing resources through policy prioritization;
- Changing the model of health care from the bio-medical disease model to a more integrated environmental approach (the wellness model);
- Creating a better balance between *the care and treatment of disease* and *the prevention of disease and promotion of health*, including the balance of resources devoted to each;
- Involving the “whole of society” by empowering people, communities and the workforce to pursue, possess and apply the knowledge of NCD prevention in all sectors; and
- Using NCDs to re-frame health systems priorities, e.g. strategic planning, health human resources, laboratory strengthening, health data systems, quality assurance, and connectivity, thereby providing greater focus and urgency to the development of sustainable and responsive health systems in the USAPI.

The Chief Executives supported the reported efforts of Committee and recommended the following:

- Continue strengthening the MCES agenda for non-communicable disease: explore strategies for encouraging NCD-related priorities among all sectors, including health, trade, education, and finance and for integrating NCDs into the overall strategic priorities of the MCES Secretariat, the Micronesia Center for a Sustainable Future;
- Continue to increase knowledge and awareness of the NCD crisis in the USAPI among international, regional and sub-regional bodies;
- Support a cross-sectoral economic analysis of the current and projected impact of NCDs in the USAPI and request technical assistance from agencies for this; and
- Strengthen MCES advocacy for U.S. Medicaid eligibility for citizens of the Freely-Associated States residing in U.S. States and Territories, as an important step in NCD prevention and control for these individuals -- To this end, invite the newly-elected Governor of the State of Hawaii, the Honorable Neil Abercrombie, to the 15th MCES to discuss and coordinate strategies for achieving Medicaid eligibility for Compact Migrants.

Transportation Committee

The Transportation Committee continues to consider security issues at the airports and seaports of member states to meet the minimum International Maritime Organization and International Civil Aviation Organization requirements, as well as those requirements of the U.S. Transportation Security Administration and the U.S. Coast Guard. These are on-going responsibilities taking into account modern sea and air transportation security issues. The Committee also reported on the need to expand air and shipping services to all Micronesia islands. The Committee is currently reviewing the outstanding proposal to extend the eligibility of Micronesia airports' for AIP grants.

The Committee also reported on work opportunities for its citizens as Deck Officers on ships that serve the MCES states under Micronesia Shipping Commission licenses to provide Micronesia

citizens the necessary qualifications for higher levels of licenses leading to marine pilot qualifications.

Further, the committee noted that new changes to the STCW Convention (International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers) were approved in Manila in June of this year and will become effective in 2012. The changes will allow licenses issued by approved "white list" countries to be accepted internationally. The Committee also reported that the Defense Mapping Agency for U.S. Department of the Navy may no longer print nautical charts for the small islands.

The Chief Executives supported the work of the Committee and directed the Committee to:

- Move forward with the extension of Micronesia airport grant eligibility in 2012 and beyond;
- Continue to work to gain service of Micronesian citizens on ships under Micronesian Shipping Commission Licenses; and
- Further investigate the issue of nautical chart printing and, if appropriate, to request the U.S. Department of the Navy to continue this service, as it is critical to the maritime safety of the FAS.

Communications Committee

The Communications Committee reported that, after significant discussion, it has become apparent that the telecommunications issues faced by the Freely Associated States vary significantly from those faced by Guam and the CNMI due to the very different levels of technology currently in place and also due to the levels of privatization that have been achieved in the latter two jurisdictions.

The Committee therefore recommended that discussions regarding communications issues between the Freely Associated States be transferred to the forum of the Micronesian Presidents' Summit, that the Communications Committee at the MCES be disbanded, and that communications officials support other committees where needed in the future.

The Chief Executives recognized the great significance of telecommunications to development in the region, but also took the Committee's concerns into account and directed that Communications Committee be eliminated and that communications issues be dealt with on an ad hoc basis in the future.

Micronesia Center for a Sustainable Future

The Secretary General (SG) reported that the MCSF inception award was formally presented by Assistant Secretary of the Department of the Interior for Insular Affairs, the Honorable Anthony M. Babauta. The award amount of \$494,000 exceeded the requested amount that was submitted by the SG on behalf of his MCSF colleagues following the 12th MCES Summit. The effective

period of the contract, which is being implemented by the Graduate School, is through June 13, 2011.

In direct response to the decision adopted in the Joint Communiqué of the 13th Micronesian Chief Executives Summit (MCES) in which, “the Chief Executives agreed to send (Designated) Representatives to an inception meeting to develop organizational structures, initial program delivery and (further) development of a regional strategic framework,” a meeting was hosted by Palau on October 5-6, 2010. The “Proceedings of the First Planning Meeting of Designated Representatives” were delivered to the Chief Executives and shared with interested parties. This document provides a thorough summary of the outcomes of the meeting and the recommendations made to the Chief Executives, to establish workable procedures and protocols for the operations of the MCSF during the period of the DOI/OIA-funded inception award and thereafter. The document is also available on the website for the 14th MCES at www.mcespalau.info.

To address concerns raised by the Chief Executives at the 13th MCES, the Designated Representatives proposed a series of procedures and protocols designed to ensure jurisdiction-wide oversight of the MCSF inception award implementation and clear decision-making authority of the Chief Executives both directly and indirectly through their duly Designated Representatives. The Designated Representatives also utilized a scoring methodology to consider budget authorization recommendations to their Chief Executives. The criteria considered included:

- Importance (to the MCSF mission);
- Jurisdictional coverage;
- Likelihood of successful completion;
- Funding leverage (likelihood that success will lead to new funding sources);
- Urgency; and
- Linkage to MCES Communiqués and Committees.

Following the review, the Designated Representatives recommended to the Chief Executives a funding authorization level of \$357,000 for a range of activities in the categories of (1) Organizational Development, (2) Program Delivery, and (3) Regional Strategic Framework and Support to MCES meetings. To date, through the first six months of the MCSF inception award period, approximately 14 percent of the available funds have been expended or committed for immediate use.

There remain funds for authorization of additional activities by the Chief Executives for new or revised proposals that may be submitted to the MCSF Planning Committee of Designated Representatives. At the close of the 14th MCES, the Designated Representatives anticipate submissions of revised proposals for the Regional Invasive Species Council (RISC) training activity and support to traditional and non-traditional Women’s organizations, conforming to the template format included as Attachment M to the Proceedings of the First Planning Committee Meeting of Designated Representatives (which can be downloaded from www.mcespalau.info).

The SG also reports that funding support was provided to the Center for Micronesian Empowerment from the MCSF inception award for partial support to their Conference, "The Untapped Potential of the Marianas and Micronesian Workforce" held on October 20, 2010. A summary of the impressive work of CME in coordination with the Regional Workforce Development Council was also presented to the Chief Executives.

The MCSF inception award has also funded expanded assistance by the Graduate School acting on an interim basis to provide MCSF Secretariat support to Palau as the host jurisdiction for the 14th MCES and the associated committee work. The direct support provided included logo design, website development, and ongoing coordination with Palau's Summit Secretariat. During the MCES, assistance was provided in facilitation of the Second Planning Committee meeting of the Designated Representatives, Communiqué drafting, and initiating structured interviews with Committee chairs and selected members. As follow-up to the 14th MCES, the Graduate School will complete a Procedural Manual for MCSF support for MCES meetings to document the process and, presumably, to ease the burden on future host jurisdictions. A report of the findings and recommendations from the structured interview process with the MCES Committees will also be produced and disseminated within six weeks after the 14th MCES. In anticipation of development of a multi-functional website for the MCES, committee documents and historical (archive) materials will be gathered in electronic form.

Looking forward, and with MCSF decision-making procedures and protocols now fully authorized, the Chief Executives have expressed their clear support to accelerate implementation of the inception award. The recommendation by the MCSF Designated Representatives to place a strong focus on fundraising to identify sustained sources of support for the Center, establish a physical location, and, identify an Executive Director for the Center was endorsed by the Chief Executives. The timeline of these activities should reflect the desire to allow the Graduate School to hand over the functional (Secretariat) support role it has been asked to provide on an interim basis.

The Chief Executives have also encouraged their Designated Representatives to consider further suggested reforms and enhancements of the MCES meeting format, committee structure, meeting timing and, perhaps a thematic focus, and other matters for consideration by the Chief Executives. Such recommendations shall be informed by the outcomes of the revised approach applied for the 14th MCES at the initiative of the host jurisdiction as well as by the report of recommendations coming out of the structured interviews undertaken with each of the MCES committees. The Designated Representatives are charged with making these recommendations in time to allow approval by the Chief Executives in advance of the 15th MCES.

Miscellaneous Issues

Water and Sanitation

The Chief Executives received a presentation on water and sanitation focused on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) within the context of water security and sanitation. The Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) is currently executing the European Union (EU) funded Pacific IWRM National Planning Programme, which is designed to

strengthen the governance structures and frameworks to mainstream Water Resource Management and Water Use Efficiency (WUE) into national planning processes of Pacific Island Countries. This project is complemented by the SOPAC executed, Global Environmental Facility (GEF) funded, project entitled “Implementing Sustainable Water Resources and Wastewater Management in Pacific Island Countries” (GEF Pacific IWRM Project).

Through the operation and planning of the GEF funded IWRM demonstration activities, national representatives from Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Marshall Islands identified and proposed a common process to facilitate the development of amendments or changes to existing water policies and coordination mechanisms in their respective countries. This process was considered in detail during the Micronesian Sub-Regional Water and Sanitation Policy Planning Workshop convened in Pohnpei, FSM, from November 8-11, 2010. A primary outcome of this workshop was the request to present the issues of water and sanitation at the 14th MCES.

The Chief Executives acknowledged the role of the Pacific IWRM Programme as a technical and advisory partner in the development of national water and sanitation policies and the revision of the Pacific Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Water Management, and supported the following recommendations:

- To establish a “Micronesian Water Committee” as a permanent working group of the MCES;
 - In this effort, to form a start-up group to be chaired by the RMI comprised of the current IWRM Focal points and other cooperating partners as needed to draft the Terms of Reference and to report back to the next MCES;
- That each jurisdiction form National Water Task Forces for the development of national water policies and a regional water strategy, including national water outlooks and national investment plans for the water and sanitation sector by the 2012 MCES;
- That each jurisdiction conduct National Water Summits in 2011 in order to launch National water policies;
- That each jurisdiction participate in the review of the Pacific Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Water Management;
- That the Start-up Group/Micronesian Water Committee request SOPAC, SPC and other partners to provide technical and financial assistance for improved water and sanitation in Micronesian Island Countries; and
- In support of the UN resolution that Water and Sanitation is a human right, the establishment of a “Blue Ribbon Day” in support of a “Water for Life” awareness campaign and that this take place annually on World Water Day.

Communication from SOPAC

The Chief Executives received the statement provided by the Director of SOPAC which noted that as of January 1, 2011 SOPAC will become SOPAC, the Applied Geoscience and Technology Division of the SPC. The Chief Executives expressed their appreciation for the SOPAC Council’s support for the recent Forum Leaders decision regarding the urgent need to:

- Sustainably increase the coverage of safe drinking water and basic sanitation services;
- Finalize the delineation of permanent maritime boundaries; and
- Expand the definition of disaster risk management beyond that posed by climate change to be people-focused, covering responses to health disasters as well as factoring in population growth and movement.

The Chief Executives agreed that the integration and mainstreaming of disaster risk management and climate change considerations (especially adaptation) into the national planning and budgetary processes was needed.

Region IX Federal Regional Council

Governor Benigno Fitial reported on the meeting recently held in San Francisco by the Region IX Federal Regional Council (FRC) and attended by two of the MCES Chief Executives and other representatives of the region. The FRC is a consortium of 19 U.S. Federal departments and agencies with offices based in Region IX. Governor Fitial indicated that the joint meeting of the FRC and the MCES served to strengthen relationships and identify cross-agency issues and initiatives to be addressed in partnership by these entities. Governor Fitial also indicated that the meeting resulted in a Joint Statement of the Region IX Federal Regional Council and the Micronesian Chief Executives. In this Statement, the FRC and the MCES committed to working in partnership on technical assistance and other mechanisms, as appropriate, consistent with available resources and existing authorities, on a range of issues and initiatives.

The Chief Executives recognized and supported the Joint Statement and the potential partnerships, including:

- Grants Management and Transparency of Information;
- Climate Change and Renewable Energy
- Sustainable Communities Future;
- Workforce Development and Training;
- Improved Health and Education; and
- Improved Communication and Infrastructure.

The Chief Executives further agreed to support the Statement's commitment to coordinate, collaborate and work in partnership with the FRC, to achieve progress on these issues and initiatives.

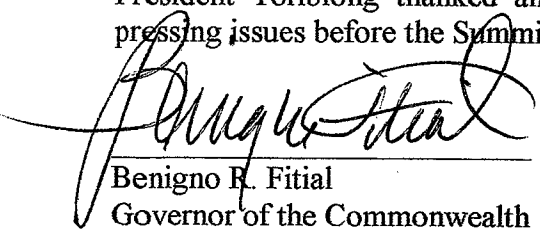
Region IX Federal Regional Council

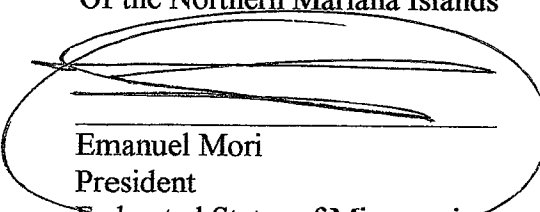
The Chief Executives adopted a resolution expressing the heartfelt appreciation of the Chief Executives, on behalf of the people of the Micronesian region, for the contributions of Governor Felix P. Camacho in establishing and expanding the Micronesia Chief Executive Summit.

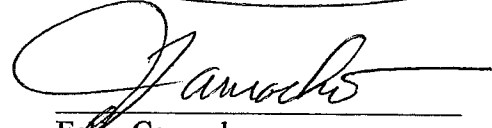
Conclusion

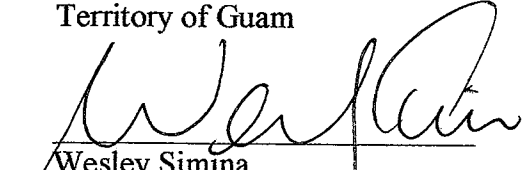
The Fifteenth Summit of the Micronesian Chief Executives will be held in Pohnpei, FSM. The Chief Executives closed the 14th Summit and once again stressed the need to move forward on prior and new initiatives. There was also a recommitment by the Chief Executives to the implementation of these sub-regional initiatives endorsed since the start of the Micronesian Chief Executives' Summits. They agreed to greater coordination and communication to accomplish the goals set out since 2003. They also committed to fully integrating regional issues into ongoing governmental planning and budget processes within each jurisdiction.

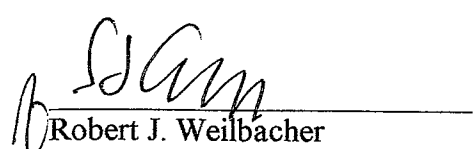
President Toribiong thanked all the participants for their attendance and attention to these pressing issues before the Summit.

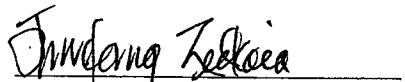

Benigno R. Fitial
Governor of the Commonwealth
Of the Northern Mariana Islands

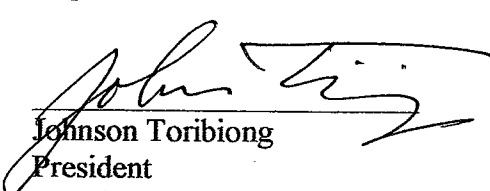

Emanuel Mori
President
Federated States of Micronesia



Felix Camacho
Governor
Territory of Guam

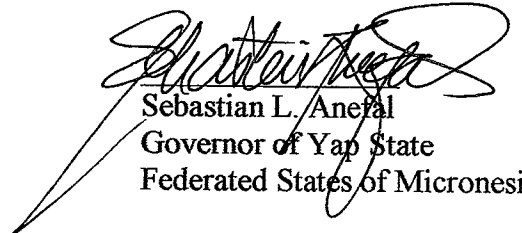

Wesley Simina
Governor of Chuuk State
Federated States of Micronesia


Robert J. Weilbacher
Governor of Kosrae State
Federated States of Micronesia
By Steven George, Director of
The Department of Resources and
Economic Affairs


Jurelang Zedkaia
President
Republic of the Marshall Islands


Johnson Toribiong
President
Republic of Palau


John Ehsa
Governor of Pohnpei State
Federated States of Micronesia


Sebastian L. Anefal
Governor of Yap State
Federated States of Micronesia