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Dr. Takuya Nagaoka's Saipan visit

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DOCTOR Takuya Nagaoka recently visited Saipan as part of his continuing research on Micronesian island cultures.

He has heard of the Empty Vessel Ministry and its community programs including Micronesia Humanities Project so he also wanted to learn more about it and its staff.

While here, he likewise visited the Northern Marianas Humanities Council and expressed a possible future visit for a cultural presentation.

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He said Saipan is beautiful and caters to tourists.

As a University of Auckland, anthropology, honorary research fellow, Dr. Nagaoka's works focus on preserving and revitalizing the traditional cultures and historical heritage in the Pacific Islands, the "intangible cultural heritage courier of Asia and the Pacific."

He is the executive director of the non-government organization, Pasifika Renaissance, which he and other former Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers established in Sept. 2014. Its goal is to help contribute to the Pacific Islanders' revitalization of traditional cultures while empowering local communities.

He said the three main fields of their activities are (1) documentation, research, and educational projects regarding traditional cultures, histories, and cultural heritage; (2) technical assistance to relevant agencies and organizations; and (3) promotion of tourism.

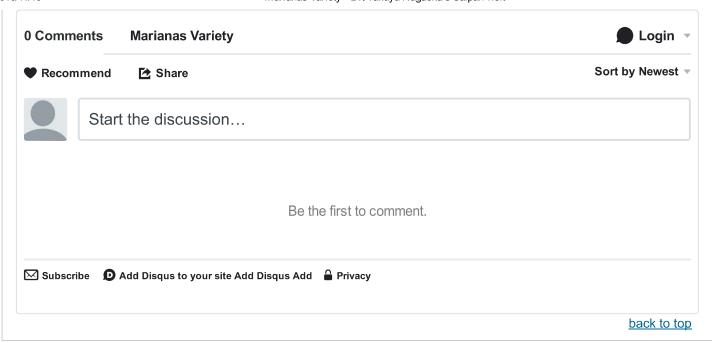
His most recent findings have been mainly focused on the Federated States of Micronesia. In Pohnpei, Pasifika Renaissance has begun to video-document oral traditions from knowledgeable elders who share legends, tales, historical accounts, chants and songs.

Nagaoka said the project is supported by chiefs, elders and other community members who want to preserve their traditions.

Some of the video recordings have been uploaded on the NGO's YouTube page, www.youtube.com/channel/UCnmyAfrAD0u4MpUF9jLgjag/.

For more information, go to http://auckland.academia.edu/TakuyaNagaoka.





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