

Pohnpei celebrates Cultural Day 2018

**Takuya Nagaoka, Executive Director
NGO Pasifika Renaissance**

Pohnpei celebrated Cultural Day at the Enipein Elementary School on March 29 this year. It is an annual event to celebrate Pohnpei State's cultures. This year, since the official Pohnpei Cultural Day fell on Saturday, March 31, Pohnpei Cultural Day was observed on the 30th while the actual celebration took place on the 29th. This year's theme was "Our Cultures: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow."

The event was co-hosted by two committees of the Kitti Municipal Government and the Pohnpei State Government organized by the Division of Social Affairs, and the Department of Health and Social Services due to the willingness of Kitti. The Kitti Agriculture Fair was also held in conjunction with the celebration.

It was a well-organized event and was attended by a large crowd. Mr. Enerihko Peter humorous served as the Master of Ceremonies. Distinguished guests included Pohnpei State Governor, Honorable Marcelo Peterson, FSM Congress Vice Speaker Senator Esmond Moses, State Senator McGarry Miguel, State Senator Dahker Daniel, the Australian Ambassador, the Acting Chinese Ambassador, and traditional leaders of Kitti. FSM President Peter Christian also briefly visited.

The event started with a sakau ceremony,



Photo by Takuya Nagoaka



Photo by Dana Lee Ling

followed by welcoming remarks by Kitti Chief Magistrate Tony Sarapio. Two of the best essays on the theme, written by Kitti High School students were read. Students from Sokehs, Nett and Kitti gave presentations on the importance of water. Then traditional decrees were made by Governor Peterson and the Nahmwarki of Kitti, His Majesty Gregorio Peter.

Groups from Enipein Pah, Enipein Powe, Mwakot and Rohi performed traditional dances and marching dances. Public Health staff members performed contemporary dances. It was a very special day that we can watch so many traditional dances! This year, stepped dance floors were prepared to accommodate four different types of traditional dances (kepir, sapei, wen and dokia) at different levels which made the performances even more special.

Displays included agricultural products and handicrafts amassed by Kitti people for the Agriculture Fair and historical photo exhibition by the Pohnpei State Historic Preservation and NGO Pasifika Renaissance, in addition to the Public Health staff's consultation held there.

I would suggest that if the event is hosted by one municipality like it was this year and last year, more effort would be required to recruit participation by people from the other municipalities to celebrate it all together as one Pohnpei. The event will need the Pohnpei Tourism office's involvement to promote it internationally. Its counterpart festival, Yap Day, is a good example of success in attracting foreign visitors. As one small first step, we have created a Facebook page for Pohnpei Cultural Day to foster public awareness, especially to Pohnpeians both here and overseas. The event could be expanded to week-long celebrations ("Cultural Week") by different municipalities, including various cultural and educational activities and ending with a large celebration for the whole

Pohnpei, in the future.

The committees, local Kitti residents and other supporters are congratulated for the successful event this year. If you missed it, you can watch our video on our YouTube channel: <https://goo.gl/DXh5vL>. It was a great day to see people's pride and appreciation to their culture! Let's keep tradition alive!



Photos by Takuya Nagaoka



Photo by Dana Lee Ling

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY POHNPEI

Australian Embassy
H & E Enterprises
Building, Kolonia,
Pohnpei, FSM
Telephone:
320 5448
Facsimile:
320 5449



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR LEASED OFFICE SPACE - AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY - POHNPEI

The Australian Embassy in Pohnpei is seeking proposals from interested parties to provide a suitable leased office space in an existing office building in Pohnpei. The location would ideally be in Kolonia Town or nearby areas of Sokehs or Nett Municipality. The space requirement is between 4500 - 5400 square feet (400-500 square metres) of Net Lettable Area (NLA).

Interested parties should express their interest in providing a leasing proposal by emailing the Australian Embassy at PHPI.Mail@dfat.gov.au no later than 5pm on Sunday, 22 April 2018 and include the following information:

- (1) Name and contact details of the entity or individual intending to submit a leasing proposal; and
- (2) A brief description of the property or properties on offer including space details (sqf or sqm) available for lease and the location of the property.

Interested parties who express interest via email will then be emailed a 'Request for Proposal' document from the Australian Embassy after 22 April 2018. The Request for Proposal document further outlines the Embassy's requirements and seeks detailed information in relation to the property/properties on offer.