



# FSM.SE Annual Update

January - December 2023



Pacific  
Community  
Communauté  
du Pacifique



## Project Overview

The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) currently relies on the importation of fossil fuels to supply electricity to its people. Reducing the reliance on fuel importation and transitioning towards renewable energy and an energy efficient power supply is critical for the future of FSM's economic and sustainable development.

To date, access to electricity varies across the country. 85% of communities in Yap, 94% of communities in Pohnpei and 98% of communities in Kosrae have access to electricity. However, the State of Chuuk has the lowest levels of access with approximately 30% of the population having access to electricity.

Ensuring all Pacific people and all communities across the FSM have access to safe, reliable, and a sustainable energy supply is critical for education, healthcare, economic development and the livelihoods of communities.

The Federated States of Micronesia Sustainable Energy (FSM.SE) Project focuses on boosting access to affordable, reliable, and environmentally friendly power supply for some of the most remote communities across the nation.

Donor: European Union

Total Funding: EUR 11.6 million

Implementation: 2020-2024

Coverage: FSM

Project Office: MRO Pohnpei

### Overall objective

To enable the FSM population to utilise affordable, reliable and environmentally sound energy services and benefit from transparent and efficient management of public funds.

# Independent Power Producer Assessment and Pre-feasibility Studies

Following the PSC's endorsement during its 2nd meeting on 15 September 2022, a focused assessment of the feasibility of renewable-based Independent Power Producers (IPP) was explored. From September 2022 to February 2023, the FSM.SE team conducted an initial set of consultations with FSM utilities, State officials, and the Department of Resources and Development (DoRD). Foundational details about FSM's electricity operations were collected, and the concept of involving the private sector in electricity production was introduced. The objective of the initiative is to substantially reduce electricity generation costs for power utilities in the four main FSM islands by allowing commercial development of Solar Ground Mounted Photovoltaic (PV) Systems coupled with Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) through public and private investments of several tens of millions of dollars, approximately 25% of GDP.

To provide better understanding and appreciation of the IPP concept, it was decided to have select stakeholders visit an IPP venture for themselves, with the closest and most relatable venture being in Palau. The project had orchestrated the site visit, bringing in a high-level FSM delegation to Palau in April 2023 to grasp the complexities of IPP implementation. The delegation participated in meetings and toured the almost-complete 13 MWp/10MWh IPP facility in Ngatpang, Palau. Led by the DoRD Secretary, Mrs. Elina Akinaga, the FSM delegation held discussions with a range of members of the Palau National Government, including government members, the Finance Minister, advisers, financiers, utility representatives and the developer. Following the Palau visit, FSM energy sector leadership decided to hire transaction advisors for a detailed IPP feasibility study, focusing on ground-mounted solar.



The pre-feasibility assessment report, named “Energizing Tomorrow: Illuminating the Path to Sustainable Futures in Micronesia”, highlighted the potential for private sector investment but emphasized the need for grant funding to achieve tariff reduction. Discussions between August and October 2023 expressed the desire for SPC to collaborate with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), showing

positive prospects for financing and development. According to the pre-feasibility assessment, the current annual electricity generation in the 4 main FSM grids, serving around 63,000 people, stands at approximately 75 million units (MU), with an annual diesel expense of \$18-19 million. The estimated carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from electricity generation are approximately 60,000 tons. The potential solar project of 25-35 megawatts peak (MWp) with 100-120 megawatt-hours (MWh) of BESS could cut emissions by half and save \$10-13 million in fuel imports, aligning with FSM's 70% renewable target by 2030.

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## Boat Handover Ceremony in Chuuk



On March 9, 2023, a boat handover ceremony took place at the Truk Stop Hotel in Chuuk, marking a momentous occasion. The 22 ft outboard boat, trailer, and engine with additional kits were procured in 2022 and successfully handed over to CPUC in 2023. Notable attendee, including a representative from the European Union (EU), the Lt. Governor of the State of Chuuk, the chairman of the CPUC Board of Directors, and CEO Kembo Mida Jr, as well as representatives from SPC, MCT, and FSM R&D Assistant Secretary Mr. Faustino Yarofaisug, demonstrated strong support for this pivotal event. The boat, a contribution from the EU under the FSM.SE project, aims to enhance access to renewable electricity and encourage private sector investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy.

## Micronesian Islands Forum (MIF)



In February 2023, the 25th Micronesian Islands Forum (MIF) was hosted by the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia. Chaired by the Honorable Mr. David W. Panuelo, former President of FSM, the forum brought together leaders and representatives from FSM states, Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the U.S Territory of Guam, the Republic of Palau, and the Republic of Nauru.

The SPC team was privileged to participate alongside our North Pacific members, demonstrating their areas of work which include:

- Renewable energy training/security
- Maritime transport and fossil fuel transition
- Water security in atolls
- Biodegradable fish aggregating devices
- Human rights and gender equality work



# National Energy Working Group (NEWG)

From April 17th to 20th 2023, the FSM.SE team travelled to Chuuk for the first state-level consultation, where the FSM Energy Division Project progress update was discussed with the National Energy Working Group (NEWG). The NEWG include select stakeholders such as FSM R&D, Kosrae State Government Energy Working Group, Kosrae Utilities Authority (KUA), Yap State Public Service Corporation (YSPSC), Chuuk Public Utility Corporation (CPUC), Pohnpei Utilities Corporation (PUC), Chuuk Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Asian Development Bank (ADB), and Chuuk State Government.



Members of the NEWG were given the opportunity to present their share of projects. Representing the FSM.SE team, Energy Investment Specialist Om Bhandari, covered the topic of Independent Power Producers (IPPs) using the Public Private Partnership (PPP) mechanism, highlighting the need to pursue more solar power in the FSM grids produced and sold by private sectors.

## Learner's Exchange :

In year three, the Project successfully undertook several learning exchange activities in Palau, Yap, and Guam, providing capacity development support to four State Energy Officers, four CPUC regional utility team members and nine regional coordinators. A state to state learning exchange on outer island electrification was undertaken between YSPSC and CPUC in March 2023 and a learning exchange on IPPs in Palau and Guam was conducted in April 2023, with the participants from the FSM national government, state government, and state utilities leaders. Two participants from Chuuk also attended a regional mini grid training in Fiji, July 2023. Ongoing training of national and state energy officers on public-private partnership work is set to continue in year four.

## Results Oriented Monitoring (ROM) Mission

Results-Oriented Monitoring (ROM) is an external support to the European Commission's (EC) monitoring system aiming to enhance the quality of the EC's international partnership operations worldwide. The European Union (EU) initiated a ROM mission in March 2023 and had contracted the ROM mission through the months of April to July 2023. The objective of ROM was to provide an external opinion on project implementation. ROM reviews the status of the project, analyses the project documentation, and conducts consultations with all parties involved, including beneficiaries. The ROM report concluded with positive results and four key recommendations with findings that noted the interventions of the projects relevance, inclusion, and coordination with other ongoing energy sector initiatives.

# Feasibility Studies Completed in 10 Selected Islands of Chuuk

Across the five regions of Chuuk, the CPUC team had identified and selected ten islands for the FSM.SE team to conduct feasibility studies. Prior to their selection, CPUC and SPC had signed a Letter of Agreement for CPUC to lead the work on the feasibility study, with FSM.SE project coordinator, Leah Akapito, working alongside of them in Chuuk. By June 2022, a grant agreement was signed between SPC and CPUC for USD 205,000 to undertake the feasibility studies in Chuuk within the ten selected sites itemized below:



## Selected Islands for Feasibility Studies:

- Northern Namoneas – Piis Paneu
- Southern Namoneas – Fefen and Etten
- Faichuuk – Polle (Sapou and Manaio)
- Northwest – Houk, Onoun, Nomwin
- Mortlocks – Nama, Moch, Lekinioch

Each feasibility study was conducted to support the design of the solar systems for these households in the selected sites and had comprised of an energy demand and social economic survey for households and for the public/private sector institutions. By November 2023, feasibility studies of all ten sites were completed, with Fefen having the largest number of households. The feasibility work includes public outreach, community consultation, GPS mapping of private/public buildings, site assessments, and a collection of social-economic and energy demand surveys.



## Verification Audit

In May 2023, the second external monitoring was initiated by the European Commission on the project and was conducted by an auditing firm from Vietnam, Mazars. The verification audit began its preparatory work with samples of documents provided and vetted from July through September 2023.

# Development of FSM's SDG 7 Roadmap and Review of FSM National Energy Policy (NEP)

A validation workshop conducted for Pohnpei, Chuuk, Kosrae, and Yap brought together the State and Utility leadership, including key stakeholders. The main objective of this consultation workshop was to share, discuss, and review the Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG7) Roadmap, FSM National Energy Policy (NEP) and related energy issues. The workshop reviewed the results, collected views and inputs, and drafted policy recommendations to better structure the SDG7 roadmap and ensure that it appropriately reflects the context of FSM's energy sector. The first review consultation was on April 10, 2023, with Yap State DoRD at the Small Business Development Center. The trip to Yap also included a Capacity Building and Learning Experience for all participants. The Chuuk State Energy Consultation, on August 15 and 16 2023, was attended by representatives from State Government, Municipalities and the National Government Department based in Chuuk, including the UN-ESCAP team, Mr. Anis Zaman and Mohammed Saladin Islami, who joined virtually.

The workshop was facilitated by Assistant Secretary Faustino Yarofaisug and presentations were delivered by the FSM.SE Project team, Mrs. Koin Etuati, Mr. Frank Vukikomoala, and Mr. Om Bhandari. On August 23rd and 24th, the Kosrae State Energy Consultation was attended by representatives from State Government; Honorable Governor, Lt Governor, Chief of Staff, Directors from Department of Administration and Finance, Education, Statistics, EPA, Mayor of Malen, KUA Officiating General Manager and Staff. Representing the civil societies and business communities were the Chair of Kosrae Civil Society and Vice-Chair of Kosrae Commerce and Micronesian Red Cross International. The Pohnpei National Consultation took place on September 26th, 2023, at the Central Facilities Building in Palikir. Representatives from National Government Departments including TC&I, Climate Change Division DECEM, DOFA, Health and Social Services, UNDP MBSPEE Project Staff, ADB Project Manager and PUC.



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# Office of the Pacific Energy Regulators Alliance (OPERA) Forum

The Board of the Office of the Pacific Energy Regulators Alliance (OPERA) met on the side events of Asian Development Bank's (ADB) Asia Clean Energy Forum (ACEF) in Manila from June 12 – 16, 2023. ACEF had highlighted practical insight into the role of the energy regulator and OPERA provided a forum for sharing experiences among electricity regulator peers at different stages in their development. On June 14th, some of the members, including FSM.SE teams Energy Investment Specialist Om Bhandari, participated in the ACEF panel discussion on the key risks and challenges of sustainable regulation in the Pacific. ADB funded experts shared programs in member countries on energy efficiency, decarbonization transition, fuel price hedging and benefits of transparency in power purchase agreements (PPAs).



During the forum, the OPERA panel emphasized that confidence in the regulator to help set and enforce consistent, transparent, and equitable rules of the game is critical to attracting the private sector investment needed to accelerate clean energy adoption and reduce dependence on fossil fuels. SPC, as the Secretariat of OPERA, is setting up a digital clearinghouse to share information amongst members. The main objective is to create a space for OPERA internal documents and related reference materials for informed decisions to take place. OPERA and its members' participation in these events is supported with generous financial and technical resources of the ADB.



ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

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# DFAT Electrification Fund Launch in Chuuk

On 17 August, the EU FSM. SE Project Team had the honor of joining a delegation, including Ambassador Jo Cowley and Second Secretary Rachelle Wood, to the islands of Piis Paneu and Etten to launch the Australian-funded solar electrification projects, which were being implemented in collaboration with the Pacific Community (SPC) under the EU FSM.SE project. The delegation also included Chuuk Governor, Alexander Narruhn; Lieutenant Governor, Mekioshy William; FSM Congress Senator Perpetua Konman; and SPC Regional Director, Lara Studzinski. As they visited the two pristine islands within the lagoon, the group was warmly welcomed by the local communities. A formal ceremony for the launch was held where Ambassador Jo Cowley remarked in her speech how the transition to using solar energy will be a momentous decision for those who stand on the front line against an ever-changing climate.

The people of Piis Paneu and Etten had been living without proper access to electricity, further demonstrating the importance of this project which aims to invest in resilient solar mini grids on the outer atolls of Chuuk, especially those that are remote and already suffering from severe climate change impacts. SPC would like to thank all developing partners such as the Australian Government for facilitating the funds for this initiative, as well as the Chuuk Public Utility Corporation for handling feasibility studies and grid installations on the ground level. SPC, through the EU FSM.SE project, stands firm in its commitment to electrify these remote islands in FSM.



## Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting in Yap

The 3rd EU FSM.SE Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting was held during the week of the National Energy Workgroup meetings in Yap, FSM on the 26th and 27th of October 2023. It was chaired by Assistant Secretary Faustino Yarofaisug in the absence of Hon. Akinaga, Secretary of the Department of Resources and Development (DoRD).

Once the quorum was met, the chair opened the meeting and welcomed the PSC members and all national and state partners present. Various outcomes and achievements were first highlighted from the 2nd PSC Meeting of 15th September 2022, such as the National Energy Policy update, SDG 7 Roadmap, and lessons learnt from procurement implementation. A total of five items were then put up for discussion by the project steering committee:



- Item 3 included tasks related to the review of the National Energy Policy, establishment of renewable energy standards for the power sector and efficient energy standards for electrical appliances and vehicles.
- Item 4 outlined the need for capacity building in energy planning and management and monitoring and evaluation. This encompassed ongoing activities relating to the scholarship for FSM national, recruitment of national and state officers and project coordinators including identification of short-term trainings and other capacity development opportunities.



- Item 1 gave a quick update on the project management team (PMT) breakdown structure, noting staff turnover and newly recruited staff from Year 2 and 3.
- Item 2 presented plans for the reappropriation of funds and to implement new supportive instruments in the project, such as the communication and visibility plan, M&E Framework, Risk Management Matrix, GESI RBA Integration Plan.



- Item 5 stated the importance of IPPs and jointly funded grid-connected renewable energy and energy efficiency projects. The SPC energy investment specialist had suggested for funds to be reappropriated and combined to pursue one much larger IPP for the FSM, which will cover all four state utilities. A tripartite partnership formed amongst ADB, SPC, and DoRD was recommended for this IPP initiative.

The discussions were followed by a short reflection, as well as a further look into the work plan and budget leading into Year 4. No other items were raised afterwards, which the Chair then directed the FSM.SE project management team to complete the meeting documents and share with all project steering committee members. Everyone was thanked for their participation and the meeting was closed. The PSC meeting was delivered successfully, noting the concerns, advice and ideas shared.



## Ulithi Site Visit

The Pacific Community (SPC), in collaboration with the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and Yap State Public Service Corporation (YSPSC), organized a visit to Ulithi Atoll to monitor progress on the EU funded solar mini grid projects on 27th October 2023. The team sent to conduct these on-site assessments included Director of Climate and Policy in the AIFFP (Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific) Timothy Gill, DFAT Second Secretary and Consul Rachelle Wood, FSM.SE National Officer Tulaulelei Overhoff, and YSPSC Engineering & Planning Division Manager John Chieng.



Their first stop was the small islet of Asor, which hosted a fully operational and well maintained solar mini grid that powers about 35 households in the area. The Asor mini grid was left relatively undamaged even as Typhoon Maysak barreled through the islands in 2015. According to interviews with Asor residents, the local population is very satisfied with the overall performance of the mini grid. DFAT, moreover, was impressed with the grid design and hope to replicate similar models across the Pacific region as part of their initiative to service more remote island communities.

The team then set course for the largest of the Ulithi group, Falalop. Typhoon Maysak had destroyed a huge portion of the previous mini grid site near the lagoon, with only the cement footings that once held the solar panels remaining. Assessments of the new site showed that construction of the facilities for housing the grid have been completed and YSPSC awaits to receive the necessary solar PV equipment (panels, batteries, inverters, etc.) for installation. Although progress seems very promising, there is still much work to be done to achieve the FSM.SE project targets in promoting sustainable development and ensuring access to clean, renewable and affordable energy.

## Renewable Energy Model Contest

During early September, talented young individuals from both elementary and high school levels throughout the FSM were called upon to participate in the Renewable Energy Model Contest. The contest was led by the Micronesia Clean Up Day Planning Committee of the FSM National government in collaboration with the four states. It was supported by the Pacific Community (SPC) Micronesia Regional office through the EU-funded project; FSM Sustainable Energy Project (EU FSM.SE).

Under this competition, students were tasked with building a model which shows how renewable energy can effectively help our people and society. All models were assessed based on structure, eco-friendly material used, mobility, concept, and relevance of ideas in terms of how closely they portray real-life set ups of renewable energy equipment at work. A decent number of submissions were received from schools such as Pohnpei Catholic School, Our Lady of Mercy Catholic High School, and Chuuk High School, with only a selected few being chosen for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place on both state and national levels. SPC would like to extend their congratulations to all participants who diligently put together their renewable energy models to broaden their knowledge on energy and environmental issues, particularly those affecting FSM. SPC looks forward to planning similar events and collaborations for 2024.



## EU Annual Report Submission

The EU annual report marks the third year of implementation for the Federated States of Micronesia Sustainable Energy (FSM.SE) project. By the end of June every year, the FSM.SE project management team must produce an annual narrative report on their performance during the past year in achieving targets set in their strategic/management plan, which includes:

- An Introduction and Overview of the Project Progress
- Project Implementation for Year 3
- Outlook and Plans for Year 4
- Activity Details for Year 3
- Financial Update for Year 3
- Project Plans and Update for Year 4

The overall report gave clear information on project progress and the activities that comply with project objectives. The EU delegation was therefore pleased to inform the FSM.SE team that the submitted annual narrative report had been approved and the project would be receiving its next tranche of funding. The FSM.SE Team, as well as the SPC Micronesian Regional Office (MRO), are anticipating another successful year of implementation for the rest of the project term.

# Feasibility Studies in the Northwest Region, Chuuk



On November 21st 2023, a team comprised of members from The Pacific Community (SPC) and Chuuk Public Utilities Corporation (CPUC) embarked on a 9-day journey to the Northwest region of Chuuk to conduct feasibility studies in three islands which were selected and endorsed by the Chuuk State Energy Working Group: Houk, Onoun, and Nomwin. Chartering the merchant vessel North Star, they set course for these small atolls to gather key information that would serve as guidance for a proposed solar system design that would suit the energy needs of the local communities. As part of a grant agreement with SPC, CPUC would be coordinating and leading all activities related to the feasibility studies in Chuuk State.

With help from the island coordinators in each atoll, a clear set of tasks was laid out for the team to complete. This included mapping every household via GPS, interviewing each head of the household as part of the socioeconomic survey, and holding village community consultations to provide context for the FSM.SE Project and what it aims to accomplish for the region. The village communities of each respective island showed full support for the project and were very hospitable in accommodating the team, as well as providing technical assistance wherever possible. Although it was an arduous trip to reach these remote areas, a large amount of critical data was collected and would be utilized in detailed feasibility reports for the FSM.SE Project's electrification efforts in the Northwest region.



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# 2023 Diplomatic Friendship Softball Tournament



From November 3rd to 5th, 2023, the FSM Department of Foreign Affairs hosted the 3rd Annual Diplomatic Friendship Games at the Spanish Wall Softball Field. The goal of these games was to foster new relations, and strengthen existing partnerships, between the FSM Government and the diplomatic missions, and regional and international organizations, based in FSM. A total of seven teams participated in the competition.

Many colleagues from the Micronesian Regional Office (MRO) willingly took part in this special event, all sporting FSM.SE project t-shirts as they showcased their skills and talents on the field. The tournament was concluded through a closing ceremony where all teams were provided meals and given the chance to network amongst each other after a long weekend of playing ball. Deputy Secretary of Foreign Affairs Mr. Ricky Cantero gave his remarks and presented trophies to the winners of the tournament. Although the SPC team managed to pull away with 4th place, they enjoyed their time playing with other developing partners and are eager to take part in the next exciting tournament for 2024.



## ***A Warm Welcome to The New MRO Director: William Kostka***



We would like to extend our congratulations to Mr. William Kostka for his appointment as the Regional Director at the SPC Micronesian Regional Office in Pohnpei. With over two decades of invaluable experience in program management and international development, William possesses deep-rooted knowledge of the socio-economic and socio-political landscape in the Micronesian countries and territories, which allows him to navigate the unique challenges and opportunities within the region. His commitment to expanding his understanding of Pacific Island countries and territories reflects a dedication to serving the needs of the region effectively. The SPC Micronesian Regional Office is very much looking forward to a successful term under his leadership.

# FSM Department of Education Scholarships Grant



**DEADLINE**  
Spring 2023: December 31  
Fall 2023: June 30

## SCHOLARSHIP Opportunity 2023

**ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

- Must be a citizen of FSM
- Must be a full-time student
- Must graduate between May 2023 to May 2025
- Must satisfy the admission requirements of the institutions in which the course is to be undertaken.
- Be able to undertake the scholarship in the calendar year for which the scholarship is offered.
- Maintain a cumulative Grade Point Average of 2.50 or better on a 4.00 scale.
- Must be willing to return to the FSM and work for at least two years.

*Women and girls are highly encouraged to apply.*

**Fields of Study**

- Science Major in Physics, Mathematics, or Technology
- Electrical Engineering
- Renewable Energy
- Energy/Climate Policy and Planning
- Geographic Information System
- Economics majoring in Econometrics

**HOW TO APPLY**

- Submit 1) letter of interest 2) latest academic transcript and 3) Copy of FSM passport to FSM Department of Education

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FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA  
SUSTAINABLE ENERGY PROJECT

EUROPEAN UNION

Pacific Community  
Communauté du Pacifique

A grant of USD 140,000 was signed in September 2022 between National DOE and the EU FSM Project to support FSM Nationals currently studying STEM fields at accredited universities within the US. The scholarship fund complements other scholarships offered within FSM, including National Government Scholarship, State Government Scholarship, and Pell Grant.

A call for interest was sent out in April 2023 and seven students of various STEM fields were awarded. The fund covered tuition fees and return air fares to FSM for scholarship recipients upon completion of their studies.

The Scholarship Unit is still open to receive more applications for interested students. Females are encouraged to apply as work within the energy sector in FSM is still male dominated, with mostly men working as engineers, technicians, and decision makers.

For any further information regarding the FSM.SE scholarship grant, please liaise with Joyleen Sienes at the FSM National Department of Education.

## Meet Tulaulei Overhoff



Tulaulei Overhoff officially joins the Pacific Community (SPC) as National Officer for the FSM.SE Project. Mr. Overhoff graduated from East China University of Science and Technology with a Bachelor of Engineering degree in Environmental Engineering. He will be assisting with project implementation through the monitoring & evaluation framework.

## Meet Marla Pretrick

The FSM.SE Project welcomes Ms. Marla Pretrick who officially began her role as Project Assistant on October 2nd, 2023. Ms. Pretrick recently returned to Pohnpei after graduating from the University of Hawaii at Hilo, earning her Bachelor of Arts degree in Marine Science. She will be handling all finance and administrative duties and providing secretariat support to the team.



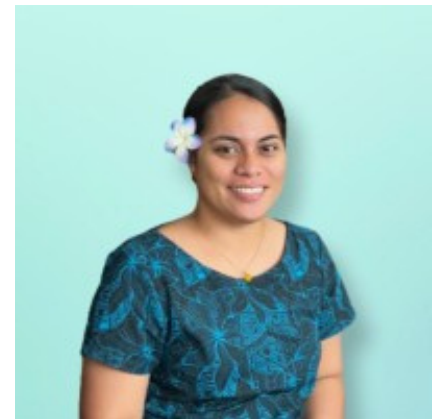
## A Farewell To Lara Studzinski



The SPC Micronesia Regional Office would also like to bid farewell to its outgoing Regional Director, Lara Studzinski. Ms. Studzinski, who started her leadership role in April 2017, brought significant expertise in programme management to the Pacific Community. Having worked and lived in the Micronesia region for eight years, her experience and knowledge provided a valuable contribution to SPC's efforts in strengthening engagement with its members and partners to enhance the relevance and effectiveness of its work. As she transitions to the next phase of her career, SPC thanks Ms. Studzinski for her years of service and wishes her all the best in her future endeavors.

## A Farewell To Leola Primo

On a similar note, the EU FSM.SE Project team experienced an emotional moment in saying farewell to their Finance and Administration Assistant, Ms. Leola Primo, who has taken up a new role with the FSM National Department of Resources and Development. Ms. Primo had been a great help in coordinating duties associated with the project, including assisting the team with travel arrangements, financial accounting, acquittals, preparation of procurement and contracting documents, and compilation of all supporting documentation during Year 2 and 3. With her current position at DoRD, Ms. Primo still engages regularly with the EU FSM.SE Project team to support their objectives within FSM. SPC will miss her presence but wishes her the very best with her new role.



## ***Congratulations to Secretary of R&D: Elina Paul Akinaga***

The FSM.SE Project team is delighted to extend heartfelt congratulations to Elina Paul Akinaga for her well-deserved reinstatement as the Secretary of the Department of Resources and Development for the Nation. Akinaga's remarkable commitment to national service spans an impressive 14 years, during which she has demonstrated exceptional dedication and leadership at the national level. Notably, her valuable contributions were evident in the last four years while serving as the Secretary of the same Department in the previous Administration. We commend Secretary Akinaga for her continued service and wish her success in her role.

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## 2024 Energy Calendar Events – National Government & FSM.SE Project & IA Workplan

January 2	Work resumes
January 8-12	Works contract CPUC, complete TOR, and GA application
January 9, 16, 23, 30	Procurement meetings
January 15, 29	DOE grant updates
January 29 - February 2	3rd R&D Conference Yap State
February 5 - 9	FSM.SE PMT Reflection and Planning Workshop
February 6, 13, 20, 27	Procurement meetings
February 19-23	Monitoring and Evaluation Write Up for NEP
March 1	Nuclear Survivors Remembrance Day (Republic of Marshall Islands)
March 5, 12, 19, 26	Procurement meetings
March 8	International Women’s Day
March 15	Feasibility study draft report compilation
March 29	Good Friday
March 31	Cultural Day (Federated States of Micronesia - All)
April 1	Easter Monday
April 5	Earth Day
April 11-27	Gabor In-country Mission
April 16-18	IRENA Forum Assembly
April 22	RE & EE Model/School competition launch
April 20-25	Deputy-Director General - Operations and Integration visit to Pohnpei
April 30	Energy data update for 2023
May 10	Constitution Day (Federated States of Micronesia)
May 15	EU Report drafting commences
May 7, 14, 21, 28	Procurement meetings
June 4, 11, 18, 25	Procurement meetings
June 10	First draft EU report internal PMT review
June 10 - 14	PMT mid-year reflection and planning
July 1	1st draft year 4 report available
July 2, 9, 16, 23	Procurement meetings
August 30	EU annual year report submit to EU
September 11	Pohnpei Liberation Day
November 4	Independence Day (Federated States of Micronesia)
November 8	Pohnpei Constitution Day
November 11	FSM Veteran’s Day
November 22	President’s Day
December 25-31	Christmas Break (Admin Leave)