

～ 日本海難防止協会シンガポール連絡事務所発SRO news ～
(Ref No : 22-006)

1 パラオ政府観光局によると、中華航空の4月から5月下旬までのフライトが、予約が少なかったためキャンセルされた。台湾は引き続き新型コロナ発生地域からの帰国者に対して厳格な入国制限を課している。台湾メディアによると、4月13・14日にパラオで開催された第7回アワ・オーシャン会議に参加した台湾代表団のほぼ半数が帰国した際に新型コロナ陽性となっており、パラオ・台湾間の「無菌回廊 (sterile corridor)」はもはや無菌ではなくなっている。パラオ・台湾間のフライト再開は、パラオの医療紹介プログラムとパラオでは利用できない医療を必要とする患者にとって重要なものだ。

[原文](#)

(26th April 2022, Island Times)

2 パラオは第7回アワ・オーシャン会議で2032年までに100%再生可能エネルギーを達成することを約束した。ウィップス大統領は共和国施政方針演説で、「100%再生可能エネルギー達成の強力なパートナーを探している。年末までに将来のパートナーとの再生可能エネルギー計画を完成させることを楽しみにしている」と述べている。

[原文](#)

(29th April 2022, Pacific Island Times)

3 ミクロネシア連邦 (FSM) は、ヤップ島北方の延長大陸棚の権利を主張し、主張している地域の一部は、パラオと日本によって主張されている地域と競合している。同国の Gallen 司法長官は、国連海洋法条約第76条に基づき、国連の大陸棚限界委員会 (CLCS) に正式に申請を提出した。一方、FSM 政府は声明で、「この問題の結果がどうであれ、FSM はパラオ及び日本との外交関係を強く保つ」と述べた。FSM 政府職員は、申立ての提出に先立ち4月22日にパラオ及び日本に相談したとし、現在のところ、両国から異存はないと述べた。

[原文](#)

(26th April 2022, Pacific Island Times)

4 オーストラリア政府は、ミクロネシア連邦のチューク環礁にある第二次世界大戦時の沈没船からの油流出リスクに対処する取り組みを強化するプロジェクトに資金を提供する。オーストラリアの資金は、太平洋地域環境計画事務局 (SPREP) および Major Project Foundation を通じて、日本政府が実施している既存の取り組みを支援する。支援は212万豪ドル(※約150万USドル)規模で、2024年6月まで実施される。

[原文](#)

(27th April 2022, Kaselehlie Press)

5 マーシャル諸島は、最新の米国の人権報告書で、民主的慣行と自由度について高い評価を受けた。一方、複数の汚職事例があり、「数は少ないが高官が汚職で起訴された」とした。

[原文](#)

(29th April 2022, Marshall Islands Journal)

6 ユナイテッド航空は、（※マーシャル諸島マジュロ国際空港等を発着する）アイランド・ホッパーを5月11日から週2便に増便すると発表した。火曜日と木曜日はグアム向け、月曜日と水曜日はホノルル向けに運航する。

[原文](#)

(29th April 2022, Marshall Islands Journal)

7 アジア開発銀行（ADB）は自由連合盟約（コンパクト）3 各国（マーシャル諸島、ミクロネシア連邦、パラオ）の経済を比較する「自由連合国におけるコンパクト資金援助終了による経済的影響（The Economic Impacts of the End of Compact Grant Assistance in the Freely Associated States）」を発表した。（※各国の経済構造（民間セクターの占める割合が上記の順にそれぞれ33%、22%、47%など）、財政構造（税収の占める割合がそれぞれ22%、14%、41%など）について原文に記載。）

[原文](#)

(29th April 2022, Marshall Islands Journal)

8 日本政府はソロモン諸島に対し、同国と中国の安全保障協定を尊重し、同国の主権の決定に干渉しないと明言した（has assured）。ソロモン諸島政府の声明によると、本件はソロモン諸島を訪問中の上杉外務大臣政務官とソガバレ首相との会談で強調された。

[原文](#)

(28th April 2022, Solomon Star)

※参考：外務省（[リンク](#)参照）

9 ソロモン諸島警察の（巡視船の）船橋当直員が研修に参加するためオーストラリアを訪問する。研修はケアーズの Technical and Further Education : TAFE) で 5 週間実施される。研修は、以前はタスマニア・ローンセストン所在の Australian Maritime College で実施されていたが、TAFE に移された（※SRO News20-050 参照）。

[原文](#)

(27th April 2022, Solomon Star)

New Australian project to help address the oil spill risk from WW2 wrecks in Chuuk Lagoon

Australian Embassy

The Australian Embassy announced that the Australian Government will be funding a project to enhance efforts to address the oil spill risk from WW2 wrecks in Chuuk Lagoon. The announcement follows an offer of assistance in 2021 by Australian Foreign Minister Payne to His Excellency President David W. Panuelo. Ambassador Jo Cowley was honoured to receive President Panuelo on 7 April to discuss the new project. Oil spills from these wrecks present risks to human health and safety, and to the environmental and economic security of nearby Chuuk communities. Through the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

and the Major Projects Foundation, Australian funding will support existing efforts by the Government of Japan through the Japanese Mine Action Service to remove oil from high-risk wrecks in Chuuk Lagoon. Australian support will also build and enhance local capability and capacity to manage ongoing risks from the wrecks and respond to oil spills. The initiative is valued at AUD2.12 million and will run until June 2024. It responds to a key FSM priority, which recognises that the health of the ocean is fundamental to the sustainability of island life. The project will soon work closely with National and Chuuk State Governments to begin implementation. (underwater image credit: Major Projects Foundation)

RMI scores poorly on corruption

The Marshall Islands received a high-rating for democratic practices and freedoms in the latest United States human rights report.

But the report listed several instances of corrupt practices ongoing in RMI, noting that “high-ranking public officials were rarely prosecuted for corruption.”

On freedom and democracy, the annual US State Department report comments: “The constitution provides for freedom of expression, including for members of the press and other media, and the government generally respected this right.

An independent media, an effective judiciary, and a functioning democratic political system combined to provide for freedom of expression, including for members of the media.”

The report was less positive about corruption.

“The law provides criminal penalties for corruption by officials, and although the government generally implemented the law effectively, officials sometimes engaged in corrupt practices with impunity,” the report said. “Freedom House reported that corruption was a chron-

ic problem, particularly in foreign aid allocation, government procurement, and transfers, and that high-ranking public officials were rarely prosecuted for corruption.

The report continued: “The Attorney General’s Office had two ongoing cases related to government corruption as of September. Separately, the Attorney General’s Office issued two actions to government officials on behalf of the Auditor General to ensure compliance. This included a request for documents relating to an audit and one search warrant. Credible evidence

suggested problems with government officials colluding in goods being smuggled into the country.”

The report also commented on the halt to health funding by its own government. “A foreign government halted a substance abuse and mental health grant due to questions surrounding more than one million dollars of unaccounted spending of program funds,” the report said. “An audit revealed the unaccounted expenditures, and the Ministry of Finance has not provided an acceptable account of these missing funds.”

United Airlines adds second flights

After many months with a single weekly Island Hopper flight in each direction, United Airlines this week announced it will resume a second flight starting May 11.

This means that the Island Hop-

per flights will fly west to Guam on a Tuesday and Thursday schedule, while Monday and Wednesday will be the nights for the flight to Honolulu.

In addition to repatriation groups

for Majuro and Kwajalein, passengers from Guam and Honolulu traveling through to the opposite ending destination are making use of the Island Hopper flights.

Economic focus on RMI, FSM and Palau

A newly-released report by the Asian Development Bank offers a snapshot comparison of the economies of the three freely associated states. The report is titled: The Economic Impacts of the End of Compact Grant Assistance in the Freely Associated States.

In its executive summary, the report compares various aspects of the Marshall Islands, FSM and Palau. These include:

Economic structure: Development status differs among the FAS. The FSM is the least developed of the three FAS with the private sector representing 22 percent of GDP with the major private sector activity focused on retailing to provide goods and services to the local economy. For the RMI the private sector represents 33 percent of GDP, with fishing being the major component. For Palau, the most developed of the FAS, the private sector represents 47 percent of GDP with tourism comprising 38 percent of private sector activity. The FSM has the largest household sector comprising subsistence and informal sector activities representing 24 percent of GDP as compared to the RMI at 13 percent and Palau at 10 percent. Among the FAS, the RMI has the largest public sector at 30 percent, with Palau at 28 percent and the FSM at 25 percent. The structure of the three economies reflects the development paths adopted in each. In Palau, the nation has adopted a tourism-based growth model, yet it still relies on donor support for the public sector and infrastructure needs. The RMI has adopted a two-part strategy of public sector-led growth with parallel development of its fisheries sector. The FSM has implemented neither a public sector-led nor a private sector-led development strategy; however, the FSM's combined state and national planning efforts are aimed at promoting a multi-sector private sector-led growth strategy.

Economic growth in each of the FAS has been lackluster. The RMI has achieved the best growth rate during the period from FY01-FY19, with an average annual growth rate of 1.2 percent, while Palau with the most developed economy has grown by an average rate of 0.6 percent during the same period.

ADB compares impact of losing the Compact



The ADB's report on the end of the Compact's economic assistance package.

The FSM attained a 0.2 percent average growth rate. All three economies have been beset by a high degree of economic volatility, with Palau experiencing the greatest volatility due to the nature of its tourism-reliant economy.

Fiscal structure: In terms of fiscal structure, tax revenues reflect the degree of development in the economy with Palau attaining 41 percent the highest proportion of tax revenues of total revenues with the RMI and FSM recording 22 percent and 14 percent. While all three FAS have relied on the same set of taxes inherited from Trust Territory (TT) days the FSM score displays a particularly low level of tax effort. Sovereign rents derived from fishing fees and in the FSM's case from the domicile for major Japanese corporations now represent a large share of tax revenues in the FSM and RMI, 43 percent and 28 percent, respectively, while Palau receives only a modest 8 percent of revenues from this source.

Reflecting the dependent nature of the three FAS, grants remain a critical component of the landscape since independence and TT days recording 38 percent, 48 percent and 37 percent in the FSM, RMI and Palau, respectively.

Fiscal performance. Each FAS has displayed a different approach to fiscal policy. In the FSM, reflecting the nature of the Federation, there are differences between national government performance and that of the four states.

The national government has benefited from the recent and significant growth in sovereign rents, while the four states have not benefited directly from that increase; rather the states have continued to rely upon Compact sector grants for their major share of revenues. This has led to large fiscal surpluses at the national level averaging over 20 percent of GDP in recent years as the state governments' collective fiscal envelope has been constrained as each state has struggled to sustain fiscal balance as the real level of grants has declined.

In the RMI, revenues, and thus, the fiscal envelope, has grown rapidly in recent years reflecting the increase in fishing fees, but expenditures have rapidly caught up with the increase. The outturn has been that the RMI has sustained a balanced but continuously fragile fiscal position.

In the case of Palau, the nation has maintained a conservative fiscal position and the level of government has remained constant in real terms.

During the tourism boom years as revenue rose rapidly, the nation set aside the surplus into a general fund reserve that ended up serving the nation well during the Covid-19 pandemic.