



IBETEL A KLEBELAU

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Historic Preservation Symposium

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Symposium Guest Speakers

The Palau Historic Symposium is an annual event hosted by the Bureau of Arts & Culture/ Palau Historic Preservation Office. On September 3 and 4, 2008, the Bureau once again held this annual event with the theme, "*Oidel a Kerresel a Uldelid el Klechibelau er Kid*" (Transferring our Precious Cultural and Historical Heritage).

Day 1, September 3rd, was held at Bai ra Maiberel and was dedicated to listening to guest speakers and panelists and having 91 participants partake in group work. On the second day, which took place in Aimeliik State, there were 54 participants. Participants of the two-day symposium represented different government and non-government agencies. There were four main objectives of the symposium: (1) To build a closer working relationship with our



Participants of Day 2 of the Symposium touring Aimeliik's Bai re Keiai

partners in protecting and preserving Palau's natural, historical, and cultural resources; (2) To strengthen the on-going dialogue and coordination among all partners in order to improve our efforts in carrying out our responsibilities; (3) To learn more about each other's roles, responsibilities, requirements, and concepts; and (4) To enhance the education of the targeted partners in order to improve the general understanding of the importance and value of the Historic Preservation Program and its concepts.

The symposium accomplished its objectives by gathering input and commitments from key partners in the community, from the top Government and Traditional Leaders to the service providers.

Site Restoration Project at Ngardmau Railroad Track

Ngardmau State was selected this year as the recipient of the FY'07 Site Restoration Fund Grant of \$2,000.00 to restore the Ngardmau Railroad Track in Ngardmau State. On July 30, 2008 there was an award ceremony of the Site Restoration Project at Ngardmau Waterfall parking area. Each year each state has an opportunity to apply for this award.

The principal objective of the Site Restoration and Development Project is the protection and enhancement of historical and cultural sites listed on the Palau Register of Historical Places. This goal is in accordance with the Bureau of Arts and Culture's responsibility to maintain and develop significant

historic properties for the interest and education of the public. Additionally this project is intended to bolster State-level preservation activities via direct involvement of traditional leaders and villagers.



Ngardmau Governor Mrs. Akiko Sugiyama giving the closing remarks during the opening ceremony for the site restoration project

PCC Cultural Trip to Ngeremlengui

At the request of Project Beacon, PCC, BAC Staff Rita Olsudong and Sylvia Kloulubak took several students to visit sites in Ngeremlengui on October 23, 2008. The Students were accompanied by Ms. Adora Nobuo who is the Program Counselor for Project Beacon, PCC. Leory Fritz, a member of the Ngeremlengui State staff also came to assist as a guide. The first stop was at a former Japanese pineapple cannery at the Ngermesang region along the bank of Ngermesakang River. The second stop was at the Imeong traditional village where students were shown a square stone platform called Iliud er a Elbechei with a flat circular basalt rock called Omeroel Bad at Imeong dock. The students then proceeded up an ancient stone path to Bai er a Orrukei (a chiefs' meeting house).

After Bai er a Orrukei, the group followed the stone path to

the top of the ridge to Emeraech which marks the outer limit of the village. After a brief break, the students went down to Ngerutechei traditional village. The final site was at Uluang terraces. A brief oral history of the destruction of Uluang was given by Ms. Olsudong before she continued on to the chronology of Palau. Uluang has terraces, a crown, and stone platforms which presented a good example (continued on page 3)



PCC students listening to Rita (BAC Archaeologist) giving an overview of the former Japanese pineapple

2008 Annual Consultation and MEHP Meeting in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia

Two Bureau of Arts and Culture staff—Rita Olsudong, Staff Archaeologist and Acting Historic Preservation Officer and Kelly Marsh, Cultural Anthropologist/Ethnographer—attended two annual meetings held in Pohnpei state, FSM August 8 to 16, 2008. One of the meetings was the annual consultation with US National Park Representatives Paula Creech, American Samoa and Micronesia Program Manager and Hank Florence, Chief of the Region 9 Cultural Resource Team. The second gathering was the 29th annual meeting for the Micronesian Endowment for Historic Preservation.



(Front center) Ms. Kelly Marsh (BAC Ethnographer) giving her presentation during the Meeting

The meetings were excellent opportunities to formally and informally hear about the work being conducted in the CNMI, Guam, FSM, and Marshall Islands historic preservation programs. All of the projects discussed were interesting and many were inspiring—from the maritime archaeological surveys to training college students to protect and preserve their islands' oral history and learn the skill of

translation (projects that took place last year in the CNMI and the Marshall Islands respectively). Micronesian historic preservation staff were especially encouraged to share program successes and challenges with one another so that we might learn from each other and help one another overcome obstacles.

An additional feature to the meetings this year was listening to presentations from various entities which have related interests. For example: The University of Guam Anthropology Program discussed its new internship program in which some university students have already served as interns in Micronesian historic preservation offices. The Guam Preservation Trust, a non-profit public corporation that promotes historic preservation causes, provided an overview of itself. Shimbros Music Institute detailed their new music institute located in Guam. Scott Russell, former CNMI Deputy Historic Preservation Officer and Staff Historian, shared a synopsis of the growth of historic preservation in Micronesia. And Father Francis X. Hezel provided both an on-site tour of the Micronesian Seminar and a presentation about its missions, goals, and accomplishments. Its website, <http://micsem.org>, is an excellent source of historic photos of Micronesia and Micronesians, and much more.

Pohnpei sponsored a cultural night and visitation of several of its historic and cultural sites. Next year's annual meetings are said to be occurring in Yap state, FSM. Some historic preservation training sessions are also slated to occur around the same time in Yap.

Mr. Emesiochel Attended Training in Japan

From September 09 to October 09, 2008, Calvin Emesiochel from the Survey and Inventory Section of the Bureau of Arts & Culture traveled to Japan to attend a **Training Course on Cultural Heritage Protection in the Asia – Pacific Region 2008 - Research, Analysis and Preservation of Archaeological Sites and Remains**. The training was carried out by the Cultural Protection Cooperation Office, Asia/Pacific Culture Centre for UNES-



Participants with Acting Governor of Nara Prefecture

CO in Nara, Japan (ACCU Nara Office). There were 16 participants from Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Iran, Myanmar, New Zealand, Pakistan, Rep. of Palau, Rep. of the Philippines, Rep. of Korea, Samoa, Thailand, Uzbekistan and Vietnam. The group consisted of Archaeologists, Curators, Preservationists, Scientists, Lecturers and Architects from Government and State agencies, (continued on page 3)

Presentation at Emmaus High School

On September 26, 2008 at the request of Emmaus High School teacher Mrs. Regina Subris, Ms. Lynda D. Tellames, BAC Staff Historian, gave a presentation to senior class students concerning traditional customary practices as they relate to "Traditional Leadership in Palau" (*"Ibetel a Uldelid e Ulekerreu el Omerreder er Belau"*). Ms. Filly Carabit, Public Education Staff accompanied Ms. Tellames to observe the presentation.



Emmaus High School senior class with Ms. Lynda D. Tellames, BAC Historian (back row, second on the right)

The students showed their strong interest in the presentation by being very attentive and asking a lot of questions of the presenter Historian Tellames.

This is part of the Bureau of Arts & Culture's on-going effort to educate the public about Palauan cultures and historical treasures.

PCC Cultural Trip (continued from page 2)

of the different types of features associated with Palau chronology. The Governor of Ngeremlengui stopped by and welcomed the students and gave a few encouraging words on the preservation of Palau's heritage.

The trip was a success as students got to learn and visit some of Palau's Historical sites.



PCC students touring the former Japanese pineapple canary

Constitution Day/Olechotel Belau Fair 2008

The annual Olechotel Belau Fair was held on July 9 & 10. The theme for this year was "*Kede Mechisii e Smisichii a Klebelau*" (We shall Proclaim and Reaffirm Palau's Heritage). The two day cultural event showcased the rich and unique Palauan culture and celebrated the Republic of Palau's Constitution Day on July 9th.



Koror State Dance Group Performing the Delal a Ngloik (Women's Traditional Dance)

This year there was no competition for the overall first place trophy at the Olechotel Belau Fair. States participated by showcasing vibrant displays, selling arts and crafts, selling food and drinks, displaying and selling indigenous and imported crops and plants, performing traditional and contemporary Palauan dances, and participating in the music contest.

Training in Japan (continued from page 2)

Museums, Universities as well as other NGOs that deal with heritage properties.

The training covers a variety of techniques regarding how to protect and preserve cultural heritage in the face of the development of a country. Techniques presented included the use of different modern technologies and equipment as well as other means of preservation and treatment of Cultural Properties. Participants were each provided time to present their country report concerning the status of its present situation and were able to experience and gain knowledge that can be applied to improve their existing situation of their respective country.

Calvin and Errolflynn Training on Guam

On November 17 to 29, 2008 Errolflynn Kloulechad and Calvin Emesiochel from the Survey and Inventory Section of the Bureau of Arts and Culture went to Guam to attend two different training sessions.

The first Training session took place from November 17 to 21, 2008 and was conducted by Dr. Thomas King. It focused on the process of *Section 106 compliance: An Introduction to Professional Practice Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and Issues in Section 106: An Advanced Seminar*. This training was provided for



Section 106 Training

FAS HPO staff as well as other entities that deal with federal undertakings to ensure that the Section 106 regulations are met.

The *Section 106 compliance: An Introduction to Professional Practice Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act* provided an overview of the purpose of Section 106 and how it can be carried out. This session included Initiating Review, Identification of Historic Properties and Effects, Resolving Adverse Effects and Coordination with NEPA and Special Situations. The *Issues in Section 106: An Advanced Seminar* dealt with Consulting Parties, Identification and Evaluation, Determining and Resolving Adverse Effects, NEPA Substitution and Programmatic Agreements and Their Kin.

The second training occurred from November 24 to 29, 2008. This training effort was conducted by the Micronesian Area Research Center at the University of Guam. The training involved actual field surveys, excavations, and working with GPS and GIS systems.



Certification Award

The participants undertook a hands-on approach—conducting (continued on page 6)

HISTORIANS CORNER

Kelulau

A omesodel a kelulau er Belau a kmo ng mlangai er a bersoech el mla er a Ngeaur. A bersoech a kemanget el charm, e ngar er ngii a btelul e merael el me er uriul, e ulekedelad el ulengeasek el kirel a bek el belual Belau. Tia el kelulau a ngii a silmechokl e kudmokl a kebekuul me a teleuechel el dui, e chemedaol, e kmull, e msa a klisichel. Ng dirrek el dilalem a klobak er a bek el belual Belau, e mlo oterekokl er tir a tekingel a kelulau, me ng mlo sebechir el olab e omtebechel er Belau. Me ng ngar er ngii aike el meklou el ulechel a kelulau (delal a kelulau) el lulemdid, e oltrakl a remla chad er a rechuodel, el omcheliu e mangedederer a belual a Belau el utebengall el tekoi er chelecha el sils. Me ngar er ngii a:

1. Omengull me a Omeluu
2. Odanges
3. Klechubechub
4. Klaiuerenges
5. Kldung
6. Odekial a Reng

Aika a ike el tekoi el luluusbech a remenguteling a beluu er a rechuodel el mei. E a uchetemel a kelulau er Belau a di osisiu er a bek el beluu er Belau, me a bek el beluu er Belau a chemur a kelulul. Me ng ua isei e ng di diak el belkul a kmo, te chemur el omtok er tia el delal a kelulau. Ng di mo ultuil er a usbechel a kelulau er a derta me a derta el beluu e ng mo er ngii a dertelkib el klekakerous er ngii er a di rolet a omengedereder er a chelsel a beluu.

A kelulau a uchul e kede kmo, ng ko er a charm el bersoech, a bersoech a kemanget e ng di orrengees er a di chimo el ngor. Ng di omengull me a ungil el klaiuerenges me a odanges er a delongelir a rechad a kudmeklii a buai me a beluu el mo ungil. Ng ua isei e ng di a lebo er ngii a mekgit el kelulau el duubech er a remengeteklel a beluu, e ng mo uchul e ng mo remurt a bedul a beluu.



Kelulau: The Whispered Policies

Kelulau refers to important secrets or sensitive political matters. The legend of *Kelulau er Belau* is an unusual one. It informs us of how the *kelulau* of Palau was obtained from the snake of Angaur (*Bersoech er a Ngeaur*). This legend describes how the *kelulau* came to be; it is not an explanation of its actual nature and function.

The legendary derivation of the *kelulau* of Palau from a snake is because a snake is long and has but one head and one tail. By comparison, the *kelulau* of Palau is well maintained and systematized from its head down to its tail in each *beluu* of Palau. *Kelulau* arranged and established the *kebekuul* and *teleuechel* titles, made them sacred and empowered them as well. *Kelulau* installed them as the *klobak* (council of chiefs) of the various *beluu* (villages) of Palau and entrusted them with aspects of *kelulau* to enable them to preserve Palau.

Thus, the following traditional basic principles (*meklou el ulechel a kelulau*) were preserved, protected, and practiced by the people of old:

1. Respect and Honor (*Omengull me a Omeluu*)
2. Praise or Appreciation (*Odanges*)
3. Compassion (*Klechubechub*)
4. Cooperation and Communication (*Klaiuerenges*)
5. Good or Right Conduct/Character (*Keldung*)
6. Unity (*Odekial a Reng*)

The basic principles for establishing *kelulau* are followed by the leaders in each Palauan *beluu*. Yet, each *beluu* has its own *kelulau*. Having various *kelulau* does not mean they are in contradiction to the "Mother of Kelulau" (*delal a kelulau*) in whom all the various *kelulau* are preserved and protected. Variations arise in the leadership system within a particular *beluu* based on the requirements and use of *kelulau* within each *beluu*.

Bureau of Arts & Culture Welcomes New Staff

BAC welcomes two new staff, Ms. Kelly Marsh and Ms. Sylvia Kloulubak who came on board on July 23, 2008 and August 04, 2008 respectively.

Ms. Marsh, who holds a Master Degree in Anthropology and is a Ph.D. Candidate in Cultural Heritage Studies, was hired as the Cultural Anthropologist/Ethnographer in the program area of Oral History and Ethnography Section. She will assist the other two staff members in working with 16-member Society of Historians to record and codify Palau's oral histories and traditions.

Ms. Kloulubak was hired to fill the vacant position of Historic Preservation Specialist in the program area of Oral History and Ethnography Section. Prior to this position, Ms. Kloulubak was a school teacher at Harris Elementary School.

Considering both staff backgrounds, they will be an asset to the Oral History and Ethnography Section where both will be working.



Ms. Kelly Marsh
Cultural
Anthropologist/
Ethnographer



Ms. Sylvia Kloulubak
Historic Preservation
Specialist

Society of Historians Complete Work on New Publication

The Society of Historians, a group of knowledgeable elders certified by the President and recognized as Living National Treasures, met in early September 2008. This particular bi-annual meeting was held to review the draft booklet for "Stories with Moral Lessons" (*Chollachitnger el Cheldechoduch*) prior to sending it out for printing.

The Bureau of Arts & Culture expects to have the booklet printed prior to March 31, 2009. At that time, it will then send the booklet to the grantor agency and also disseminate copies of the booklet to concerned agencies, organizations, and others. The Society of Historians produce their booklets with the assistance of the Bureau of Arts & Culture with funding provided by the U.S. National Park Service Historic Preservation Fund Grant.

This booklet, published in Palauan and English, is the fourteenth in an on-going series of publications on traditional and customary Palauan culture.

167 Development Projects were Granted Historical Clearance Permits

During the period of July 2008 to December 2008, the Bureau reviewed one hundred and sixty-seven (167) applications of development projects for Historic Clearance. These development projects included construction of new access roads, improvement of existing access roads, building new residences and commercial projects, clearing projects, renovation of existing buildings and residences, home extensions, earthmoving projects, dredging projects, and grading and leveling projects.

As mandated by law, the Bureau must review and determine the effects of any public and/or private development projects to insure historic and cultural resources are protected and preserved. Before any development project begins, a Historic Clearance Permit must be obtained from the Bureau of Arts & Culture. Applications for Historic Clearance permits are available at the Bureau of Arts & Culture please contact the Bureau for more information about this permit process.

Special Invitation to Speak in Japan

The Department of Archaeology and Folklore Studies of the Faculty of Letters of Tenri University extended a special invitation to Ms. Lynda Tellames, BAC Staff Historian, to be a speaker at a symposium that they organized entitled, "Child Birth and Child Care Customs and Their Transmission in Japan: Learning from the Past and from Abroad." The symposium was held December 12 to 17, 2008 at the Tenri University Campus in Nara, Japan.

Ms. Tellames created a visual presentation and a hand-out to help her share significant points about "Palauan Traditional Birth" at the symposium. Her presentation was sent prior to her departure and translated into Japanese. Presenters were a mixture of university professors, midwives, historians, and other representatives from different community and religious groups of Japan.

The symposium was an interesting one, discussing many of the same concerns and issues regarding child bearing and child care that are topics in contemporary Palau. Additionally, many traditional Japanese remedies for these issues were found to be remarkably similar to those prescribed in olden times in Palau. Ms.

Tellames reports that the symposium will surely serve as a bridge for greater cultural friendship between Palau and Japan.



(l-r) Ms. Lori Ise and Ms. Lynda Dee Tellames meeting with Associate Professor Manami Yasui and Dr. Taketo Hashimoto, President of Tenri University

Mr. Kloulechad and Ms. Carabit attended a Conference on Spanish Heritage in Micronesia on Guam

On October 16 to 21, 2008, Mr. Errolflynn Kloulechad, Historic Preservation Specialist from the Survey and Inventory Section and Ms. Filly Carabit, Public Education Officer of the Bureau of Arts and Culture attended a conference in Guam on Spanish Heritage in Micronesia. The conference focused on methods of inventorying and assessing Spanish Heritage in Micronesia. It included workshops on the methods, strategies, and applications in the identification and prioritization of heritage resources.

Mr. Kloulechad and Ms. Carabit's presentation at the conference shared with participants the status of Palau's Spanish

Heritage Resources—tangible and intangible—resulting from the Spanish colonial presence in Palau.

Mr. Kloulechad and Ms. Carabit are very grateful to have been part of such a wonderful and essential conference. Further, BAC is appreciative for the courtesy and cordial invitation from the Historic Inalâhan Foundation, Guam.



(l-r) Mr. Errolflynn T. Kloulechad, Dr. Judy Flores President of the Historic Inalâhan Foundation, and Ms. Filly Carabit

Historical & Cultural Advisory Board Holds Bi-Annual Meeting

On October 31, 2008, the Palau Historical & Cultural Advisory Board held the second of their bi-annual meetings to review and approve the applications for nominated historical sites. The Board is tasked to review and approve nominated historical sites for Palau as mandated by the Directive of the President of the Republic of Palau.

During the bi-annual Board meeting, the Board approved two (2) new historical sites. They are:

- 1) Beluu er a Ngemelis / Site No. B:OR-6 Koror State
- 2) Ngerkei Taro Patch / B:NE-9:3 Ollei, Ngarchelong State

These sites are now protected under Title 19 of the Palau

National Code, Chapter 1 of the Historical & Cultural Preservation Act.

To date, BAC has listed one hundred and seventy-two (172) sites within the Republic onto the national Register of Historic Places. These sites are recognized for their cultural significance and their significance to the study of history and prehistory of Palau.

The Bureau of Arts & Culture continues to both nominate and receive nominations of significant sites around Palau for inclusion onto the Register. If you wish to know more about the registered sites, or how to nominate a site, please call the BAC office at 488-2489/3361.

BAC Welcomes New Member of Society of Historians

The Bureau would like to welcome a new Historian, Mr. Demei Otobed, who represents Ngatpang State. Mr. Otobed replaced the deceased Ridep Techitong Rebluud. The new Historian was able to join the second session of Historians for the year 2008 that was held on August 25th to September 5th, 2008.

Training at Guam (continued from page 3) field investigations and excavation to determine the presence of archaeological remains. They also collected data using GPS and learned methods for downloading it to a GIS to accumulate data needed to make informative and wise decisions for the protection and preservation of Cultural Properties.

Both training sessions were very helpful to both the Palau HPO staff as well as the Bureau of Arts & Culture/HPO to elevate its ability to meet its mission: To protect and preserve Palau cultural and historical properties for future generations.

REGULATION FOR HISTORICAL/CULTURAL PROPERTIES

It is illegal to take, remove, alter or damage any historic or cultural properties, including artifacts, sunken WW II vessels and parts thereof, WW II relics, historic landmarks and cultural properties. Detailed information on Public Laws regarding historical and cultural properties can be obtained from PNC 19 and its subsidiaries. To ensure compliance with these laws you may contact the Bureau of Arts and Culture/Historic Preservation Office at (680) 488-2489 or email to histpres@palaunet.com.

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