



IBETEL A KLEBELAU

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BAC Welcomes New Director



New Director Dwight Alexander

On January 7, 2009 Mr. Dwight Alexander was hired as the new Director of the Bureau of Arts and Culture. Prior to this position Mr. Alexander was the Administrative Officer of the Ministry of Education. He is currently a Secretary General, Palau National Commission for UNESCO.

Mr. Alexander is attentive and eager to preserve, conserve, and protect Palauan cultural heritage for the children of today and for future generations. The BAC staff welcomes the new Director.

UNESCO - MOW Regional Training Workshop

From February 18 to 20, 2009, Ms. Sylvia Kloulubak, a Historic Preservation Specialist at the Bureau of Arts and Culture attended a Memory of the World (MOW) training workshop in Icheon, Korea. The training was an intense three-day workshop. Participants were selected from 10 different countries in the Asia-Pacific region. Three island nations were represented, including Palau.

The objective of this important workshop included increasing awareness of the existence and significance of Asia-Pacific documentary heritage and assisting the selected countries in preparing their applications of significant documentary heritage for nomination to the Memory of the World international register. The participants were fortunate as the workshop leaders were experts in their various related fields and thus well-versed in documentary heritage. Experts included those from the MOW International Advisory Committee itself

and other such specialists: Roslyn Russel, Ray Edmondson, Rujaya Abhakorn, Professor Ryung Ho Such from a university in Korea, and Joie Springer.

It was pointed out during the training, that for the MOW international register, the Asia-Pacific region is under-represented and action should be taken to ensure that the rich cultural documentary heritage of these nations be preserved. This training helped the participants to understand how best to prepare their nominations for the MOW international register with less risk of being deferred.



(front center) Ms. Sylvia Kloulubak with other participants

During this training exercise, Ms. Kloulubak realized the immensity of UNESCO as an organization and the value of what they have to offer to Asia-Pacific countries by providing expertise and training. Such support is of great importance to the preservation of our cultural heritage.

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Presentation at Maris Stella Elementary School



2nd Grade Students of Maris Stella Elementary School with their teacher standing in the back row

On February 26, 2009, upon request, Ms. Filly Carabit, Public Education Officer of the Bureau of Arts and Culture provided a power-point presentation to the Maris Stella Elementary School 2nd Grade.

The presentation informed the students about

the cultural symbols of Palau's states. Each of the Republic of Palau's sixteen states has at least one traditional cultural symbol.

Following Ms. Carabit's presentation, she answered students' questions regarding the symbols. It was rewarding to see that the students were very eager to ask a lot of questions and curious to know more about the topic.

BAC would like to thank the Maris Stella Elementary School principal and its 2nd grade teachers for the invitation to come and present information about Palau's culture and heritage to the students.

WW II Japanese Bone Remains Turn Over Ceremony



(l-r) President Johnson Toribiong and Japan Embassy Charge d' Affaires Kunio Nakamura

On March 26, 2009 a small ceremony was held at the Belau National Museum to officially turn over WW II Japanese human remains to the Japan Embassy Charge d' Affaires Kunio Nakamura. President Toribiong turned over a box to Na-

kamura containing a Japanese skull and over a hundred bone fragments. This was a humanitarian effort to ensure the remains are given proper burial in Japan.

The bones were found near a water pump and an old Japanese power plant (Toyama) in Ngesias Hamlet, Peleliu State and were kept at the Belau National Museum. They were then studied by Dr. Masami Takenaka, Councilor of the Anthropological Society of Nippon, who determined that the bones were from five Japanese individuals.

Nakamura expressed his appreciation to President Toribiong for turning over the bone remains of Japanese people who were believed

Completion Ceremony of Site Restoration Project: Ngardmau Railroad Tracks

A completion ceremony for the Ngardmau Railroad Tracks site restoration project was held on May 21, 2009.

Ngardmau Railroad Tracks, Ngardmau State, is a historic site listed in the Palau National Register of Historic Places. The site was selected to be restored during Fiscal Year 2007 from among several restoration applications through a competitive process.

The site restoration grant is awarded annually to one state in order to enhance the protection and preservation of Palau's registered heritage sites. The project entailed the clearing, cleaning, and interpretation of the site.

The project was made possible through a grant from the US National Park Service, Department of Interior and the in-kind contributions from the Ngardmau state government, including contributions from state traditional chiefs and people in the community.



Group photo with the newly installed signage of the Ngardmau Railroad Track (at the back) during the completion ceremony

3-Year EBM Research Effort Wraps Up

The Babeldaob Ecosystem-Based Management Initiative (EBM) was a three-year research project that was funded by a grant from the Packard Foundation. EBM efforts began in 2006 and are finishing various final stages of its multi-layered research efforts mid way thru 2009.

Cultural and natural conservation experts and others believe that Palau's Compact Road, which has made the states of Babeldaob accessible in unprecedented ways, will usher in a period of demographic change as Palauans venture back home or otherwise migrate from the relatively overcrowded main village of Koror. Additionally, it is expected that numerous efforts will develop the new potentials of Babeldaob. These potentially rapid changes for Babeldaob were the impetus for conducting the research initiative. Cultural and natural conservation experts thus saw the need to provide communities and community leaders the tools for making informed decisions about both their tangible and intangible environments.



(l-r) Oribech Joseph, informant, and Ms. Madelsar Ngiraingas, EBM Coordinator during an interview session

The Bureau of Arts and Culture worked with five partner research entities in the Babeldaob EBM Initiative—Palau Conservation Society (PCS), Palau International Coral Reef Center (PICRC), the Environmental Quality Protection Board (EQPB), Belau National Museum (BNM), and Palau Automated Land And Resources Information System (PALARIS). The Bureau of Arts and Culture believes such partnerships more effectively use Palau's available resources, create invaluable synergy, and consolidate the

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Mr. Walter R. Metes Retired

On February 23, 2009, Mr. Walter R. Metes retired from the Bureau of Arts and Culture after years of dedicated service as the Palau National Registrar. Mr. Metes retired with over 30 years of service.

A small farewell luncheon coordinated by BAC & MCCA staff was held on February 20, 2009 to bid him farewell and to thank him for his contributions to the Bureau of Arts and Culture.

The Bureau of Arts and Culture staff want to express their gratitude to Mr. Metes and wish him a long and happy retirement.



(l-r) Director Dwight Alexander, Walter R. Metes, and Minister Faustina K. Rehuher-Marugg

BAC Mourns

Passing Away of Ms. Rita Olsudong



Ms. Rita Olsudong in Pohnpei

A great loss was felt among the members of the Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs in regards to the passing away of one of its staff, Ms. Rita Olsudong. Ms. Olsudong was the National Archaeologist for the Bureau of Arts and Culture which is housed under the Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs. Ms. Olsudong was the first Palauan to hold a Masters degree in Archaeology and was the first Palau National Archaeologist.

The resolution letter for her family from the Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs and the Bureau of Arts and Culture was read and given to her family during her funeral. Below is a brief summary of the letter.

Ms. Rita Olsudong conducted exemplary work for the Bureau of Arts and Culture, Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs, which has the responsibility to identify, document, protect, and preserve Palau's rich tangible and intangible cultural heritage.

She started working for the Bureau of Arts and Culture in 1991 and later became the National Archeologist, overseeing all archeological work for the Bureau and for the Republic of Palau.

The Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs, the Bureau of Arts and Culture, along with her family, relatives, her clan, and friends share the loss and sorrow for this wonderful daughter, mother, sister, aunt, and colleague.

She will always be remembered in our hearts.

Continued from page 6 (Time Reckoning)

The Palauan night is divided up into eight periods. *Ngolta Sils* refers to the beginning of sunset to when it is completely dark. The second phase is referred to a *Dirkkekesus*, that part of the night from the end of sunset to when the villagers begin to eat their evening meal. *Omesila Oblil* is the period when most people within the village are eating their evening meal. The next and fourth period is called *Mechiua Beluu*, when most people within the village are asleep. *Orrengela Bedul*, the fifth period, roughly translates to the "period of the night when everybody could be hit on the head and they still wouldn't wake up." *Metudaklebe-sei*, the sixth period, translates nicely into "the middle of the night."

Mochu Tutau, the seventh period of the night, is the middle hour between midnight and sunrise. Then, when the sky is beginning to lighten but the ball of the sun still cannot be seen, this is the period known in the olden days as *Ungial Tutau*, the eighth and final division of the night. A general term for the entire time span from the midnight hour to the beginning of *Ungial Tutau* is referred to as *Mochu Mellong*. As *Ungial Tutau* ends with the onset of sunrise *Ngoscha Sils*, the night has ended, and the cycle is complete.

(The English version is not a direct translation of the Palauan version as some terms have deep, lengthy meanings and cannot be translated in full. However, both versions are meant to tell the Palauan traditional time reckoning.)

These older Palauan time reckonings were gathered from Ngermetengel Elders by Gary A. Klee and can be found in, *Micronesica* 12 (2):211-246.

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input of a broad range of expertise to generate a truly meaningful research product.

Throughout the research initiative, Bureau staff kept the goal of serving the communities of Palau foremost in their minds. They felt that they could best do this by using their expertise to allow communities to have a voice—essentially to share their knowledge, experiences, observations, assessments, and sentiments regarding their cultural and natural environments. BAC conducted two research efforts pursuing these goals by interviewing some 200 *Rechad er* (People of) Airai, Melekeok, Ngeremlengui, and Ngarchelong. The Bureau is appreciative of their willingness to share. The research, findings, and reports could not have been written without community support.

New Minister of Community and Cultural Affairs



Swearing-in ceremony, Minister of Community and Cultural Affairs, Feb. 20, 2009

After her approval by the Senate/National Congress, the new Minister of Community and Cultural Affairs, the Honorable Faustina K. Rehuher-Marugg, took her oath of office at her swearing-in ceremony held on February 20, 2009.

Prior to this position Minister Rehuher-Marugg served as a Director of the Belau National Museum for many years. She is very knowledgeable and attentive of Palau's History and Culture.

During her swearing-in ceremony she pledged her support to implement and strengthen programs and projects in the Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs in order to serve the people of Palau.



(l-r) Director Alexander congratulating the new Minister, Rehuher-Marugg

Palau National Registrar of Historic Places Training Workshop

From June 25 to 26, 2009 the Bureau of Arts and Culture (BAC) held a two-day training workshop entitled, Palau National Registrar of Historic Places, at the Palau Community College, Room 66, Koror. The workshop was designed to meet several needs of the Republic of Palau in the fields of historic and cultural preservation and maintenance and was intended to help address some of the previously identified issues of significance for the Republic.

On the first day, June 25, 2009, registration occurred from 8:30 to 8:45am. There were 31 representatives from various state and national offices that attended the workshop. Specifically, staff from the national offices of the Bureau of Arts and Culture, the House of Delegates (HOD), the Division of Youth Affairs (DOY), and the Bureau of Community Services (BCS) were present. Also present were key staff from eight of Palau's 16 states. The states which sent representatives were: Aimeliik, Airai, Koror, Melekeok, Ngatpang, Ngeremlengui, Ngiwal, and Peleliu. One of the most important workshop participants in attendance was the incoming Palau National Registrar Ms. Sunny Ngirmang.

An important result from this workshop was the overall feeling of success particularly with respect to five areas. First, it provided an opportunity for the retired Palau National Registrar of Historic Places, Mr. Walter Metes, to transfer much of his

knowledge and expertise gained over his many years of service to the incoming National Registrar. This is an event that was not able to occur in the workplace as there had been an interval of five months between the retirement of the former National Registrar and the hiring of his replacement and Mr. Metes lives in a state other than the one in which the Bureau is located and is no longer employed or obligated to come in to assist the Bureau.

Second, exercises such as this remind the Bureau's somewhat diverse sections of the overlap and supportive nature of their work. The experience of the workshop served as a reminder for each Section of the functions and mission statements of other BAC Sections. It also broadened understanding of the ways in which all the Sections can share knowledge and resources. In addition, the workshop was an occasion for the Sections to work together as a team while they helped inform state governments and others of the work that they conduct.

Third, the workshop provided a rare opportunity to meet with state officials and provide information regarding BAC's mission, its regulations and procedures, and ways that BAC can be supportive and

work together with states as they strive for mutual cultural heritage preservation and maintenance goals. Further, since BAC Director Alexander is also the Secretary General, Palau National Commission for UNESCO, the attendees were also able get a better understanding of the national, state, and general public's roles and benefits with respect to the World Heritage Convention.

Fourth, coming together for the workshop allowed state government representatives who work with cultural heritage directly, an opportunity to ask questions of the Bureau's different Sections and of the BAC Director/Secretary General, Palau National Commission for UNESCO.

The fifth benefit from this workshop was the time spent informally before and after workshop presentations. State government cultural heritage professionals talked among each other as well as among national heritage experts. This not only provided additional opportunities to exchange information but also developed camaraderie and networking potential among Palau's limited number of cultural heritage professionals.



Donated Books from RFT MARC

The Bureau of Arts and Culture Director and staff would like to express their deepest gratitude to the University of Guam's Richard Flores Taitano Micronesia Area Research Center (RFT MARC), for donating books to the BAC Research Library.

With the donated books, BAC now has a larger and more comprehensive supplemental material collection to work with as reference materials to make available to

students/researchers and to help with BAC projects.

The 25 donated books are valued additions to the BAC Research Library collection.

NCSHPO Annual Meeting

Three Bureau of Arts and Culture staff—Dwight Alexander, Director/ Historic Preservation Officer, Calvin Emesiochel, Historic Preservation Specialist III/Acting head of Archaeology Section and Bridget Iyar, Grant Manager, and Mr. Droteo Nagata, Executive Director, PCAA —attended an annual meetings held in Honolulu, Hawaii and one in Washington D.C. from March 3-13, 2009. One of the meetings held in Honolulu, Hawaii was the annual consultation with US National Park Representative Ms. Paula Falk-Creech, American Samoa and Micronesia Program Manager. The second meeting was the annual NCSHPO held in Washington D.C.. The main objective of the meeting was to meet with the key partners of the National Park Services lobbying for support to the states historical preservation programs. Palau is a recipient of approximately \$200,000 from NP'S called Historical Preservation Fund (HPF) along with the rest of the Freely Associated States (FAS), Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI) and Guam.

On March 04, 2009, the delegations met in Hawaii and went on to meet with the members of the Hawaii Preservation Office and Ms. Paula Falk Creech, the Program Manager for the Pacific islands including American Samoa, Guam, CNMI, RMI, FSM and Palau. Ms. Creech had arranged for presentations from each of the delegations to a group of professors and students at the East West Center. Most of the students were majoring in Anthropology and Archaeology and would benefit from learning about the work done by the Pacific countries.

Palau gave a comprehensive presentation of the Bureau of Arts and Culture, highlighting some of its accomplishments over the last three years. Each delegation also had a more comprehensive meeting with Ms. Paula Creech to tackle all the issue related to the preservation work in each of the country. Palau took advantage of the time to clarify some of the procedures and processes for release of funds and for foiling reports. Further, it sought advice as to new frontiers in the field to get a feel of the openness of the NPS for new projects such as war and battle-field sites and underwater cultural heritage. Palau got a positive feedback that NPS will continue to support and is very open to new frontiers but the challenges of personnel and professional staff appears to be an obstacle at present and must be addressed to avoid delays.



Head of Historic Preservation Offices with Congresswoman from Guam, Honorable Madeleine Bordallo

On March 6, 2009, the Palau delegation split as Mr. Calvin Emesiochel and Ms. Bridget Iyar returned home while Mr. Alexander and Mr. Nagata of PCAA headed out to Washington D.C. On March 09, 2009 the opening of the NCSHPO meeting started at the Washington Liaison Hotel. Two major bills were discussed at length and it was agreed that all the members would use the next day to lobby the members at the House of Representatives and members of the Senate to ensure their passage.

Each head of delegation gave a comprehensive program overview and status update of projects in their countries to the heads National Park Services. They also met with several congressman in Capital Hill.

The secretary's statement and those of the congressman were very reassuring and gave Palau a sense of security despite being in the middle of compact review. The overall assessment of the meeting was very successful not only in terms of successfully ensuring the HPF fund will continue but also the new contacts and new friends that were made would be very good for the program in Palau.

Proverbs of Palau

A ukall a diak lebo el titimel

Ng mlengai er a ukall me a titimel el kerrek ar el kmeed el mo osisiu e ng di kmal kakerous el kerrek ar. A ukall a klou e mesisiich el kerrek ar el mo klekedellel a bai me a blai. E a titimel a kekerei el kmal di ua a ukall e ng di diak lebo el ngarang e le ng mechitechut el kerrek ar. Ng tekoi el mo er a cheroll er a rechad el kmo te mla er a di ta el dill e diak el sebechir el kmal mo osisiu. Ng dirrek el mo er a rechad el mo er ngii a osisiu er tir me a rebibil er a rechad e ng di diak lebo el tir.

A ukall a diak lebo el titimel (the ukall tree will not become a titimel tree)

The *ukall*, a lumber tree, resembles the *titimel*, a fruit-bearing tree, at least to the extent that both are trees and become quite large. Both have assets, but are quite different. The idiom is applied in the sense that a child resembles its father—the child will become what its father was. It may also be used to mean "human nature can't be changed."

HISTORIANS CORNER

Omingel a Cheos me a Klebesei er a Ta el Sils

A irechar e ng dimlak a klok (clock) me a rechad e risei el beluulechad a di ulemtab er a omerollet a sils me a omelekingel a charm me a bebil blekeradel el uai a le ble el taem (time) er a klok (clock).

Ma omingel a cheos (mellomes) me a klebesei er a chelsel a ta el sils a ua ikakid: Cheos- mererengang a uchul a eanged , e ng merecherong a eabed , e ng mellemesang , e ng chodechosong, e ng osbedelang a sils, e ng mengetiot a bleadech el sils, e ng iietang asils , e ng mulleklang a sils, e ng olengesengelang a sils, e ng teliang a sils, e ng kebesengei , e ng mengib otechel a otechel a sils, e ng reberbang er a chiloil sils, e ng ngoltang sils, tiakid el lengelt a sils a ullebengelel a cheos. E ngii a kuk omuchel a klebesei el ua ikakid a beldeklel: Klebesei-Ng melkingang a dechedech, e ng olengchelang el chad, e ng omekerdang a olbidel, e ng osul a belsoil, e ngongeibit el ulengall, e ng omkii a klengoes, e ng telukal, e ng bedengang a obliil, e ng metudang a klebesei, e ng merresengang a malk. Ea malk a nga er ngii a kot el malk, ongerung el malk, ongedei el malk, e ng mekdekdemang el merros a malk, e ng mengelengang a uchul a eanged, e tiakid a ullebengelel a klebesei e ngii akuk Imuut el omuchel a cheos.

System of Time Reckoning

In ancient times there was no method that was observed of measuring time but by the height of the sun and the sounds of animals.

The traditional Palauan day begins with the first rays of sunlight breaking over the eastern horizon. From this point to the time when the ball of the sun can be clearly seen is referred to as *Ngoscha Sils* (sunrise). The second period of the Palauan day begins when the sun is roughly at a forty-five degree angle in the sky, thus splitting the span of time between sunrise and noon. Since Palauans had no instruments to measure the height of the sun, these heights were approximations. This short period is referred to as *Osbedelar Ngos*. The third period of the day is when the "sun rests on one's head" (*Ungiia Techelel a Sils*). A general term for the entire period from the end of sunrise to the beginning of the noon hour is referred to as *Odechosing*.

About an hour after the noon hour, there is a short-period which is referred to as *leita Sils*, the fourth period of the day. After the sun reaches approximately forty-five degrees from its highest point in the sky, one is in the fifth and final period of the day, called *Olngesngela Sils*. A general term for the entire time span from the end of the noon hour to the time when the sun begins to set is referred to as *Kebesengei*. (*continued on page 3*)

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 hispres@palaunet.com.

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