



IBETEL A KLEBELAU

Volume 24, Issue 2

July - December 2009

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

MEHP Meeting in Rota	2
Students in the WIA Student Summer Program Join BAC	2
Historical Clearance Permits Issued	2
New BAC Staff	2
BAC Staff Present Overview of Bureau Services to Teachers	3
BAC Mourns Passing Away of Peleliu Historian	3
BAC Assist Palau High School Students in Historical Research Project	3
Stories with Moral Lessons Booklet now Published	3
Historians' First Regular Session This Year	3
Ngirmang attends UNESCO Meeting on Underwater Cultural Heritage	3
Field School Training in Guam	4
Cultural Trip to Ngarchelong State	4
Site Visits to Restored Registered Sites	5
Historians Corner	6

Palau Hosted Pacific Island Archaeology Conference



Invited Guests Speakers and Off-island Presenters/Panelists

The Republic of Palau hosted the *Pacific Island Archaeology in the 21st Century: Relevance and Engagement* Conference July 1 to 3, 2009. The event was organized by the Palau Bureau of Arts and Culture, the Belau National Museum, and Garcia and Associates: Natural and Cultural Resource Consultants, with the assistance of the Palau Community Action Agency.

The event aimed to, a) examine the value and contribution of the preservation, study, and management of the Pacific's natural and cultural heritage in resolving the contemporary socioeconomic, health, and environmental challenges confronting island nations, and b) provide the tools for sustainable development that promotes and conserves the Pacific's natural and cultural resources. To this end, the conference focused on the role, status, successes, and problems of community engagement in heritage preservation and management.

Over 300 people attended the conference: 90 were off-island delegates while the remainder were from the local community. Represented were academic institutions, government agencies, heritage resource consultants, environmental groups, tourism associations, educators, chief's councils, museums, NGOs, and construction and tour businesses. Delegates arrived from 18 nations and territories including Sweden, Germany, New Zealand, Australia, Fiji, Rapanui, U.S.A., Samoa, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, French Polynesia, and the Republic of the Philippine Islands.

A sincere appreciation to the sponsors: AUS Aid (Australian Government), UNESCO, the Micronesian Area Research Center, World Archaeological Congress, ANU (Australian National University), and Guam Preservation Trust and the local conference donors and supporters who made the conference possible.



Parade of Nations

Palau celebrated its 25th Independence Day along with World Food Day, United Nations Day, and Olechotel Belau Fair 2009 on October 1st and 2nd, 2009. The two-day festivities kicked off with the parade of nations that showcased 26 nations including Palau. Booths were set up by the sixteen states of Palau, NGOs, and private vendors. Booths provided the display and sale of arts and crafts, farm produce, and plants. There was also a display of farm animals and the sale of food and drinks. Music entertainment was played throughout the day while dance performances were held in between. A photo exhibition, Japanese Exhibition, and Republic of China Exhibition were also put together for public viewing.

Independence Day/World Food Day/UN Day/ OBF 2009

Palau celebrated its 25th Independence Day along with World Food Day, United Nations Day, and Olechotel Belau Fair 2009 on October 1st and 2nd, 2009. The two-day festivities kicked off with the parade of nations that showcased 26 nations including Palau. Booths were set up by the sixteen states of Palau, NGOs, and private vendors. Booths provided the display and sale of arts and crafts, farm produce, and plants. There was also a



Ngermid male dance group performing Ruk - a traditional male dance

MEHP Meeting in Rota

The Micronesian Endowment for Historic Preservation (MEHP) Board meeting took place from July 6 to 11, 2009 in Rota, Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI). Most of the members of the Board had previously been in Palau attending the Pacific Archaeology Conference and traveled from Palau to Rota. Those attending the meeting included the Palau Director of Arts & Culture and Historic Preservation Officer (HPO), Mr. Dwight Alexander, who joined colleagues from FSM, RMI, CNMI, and Guam at the Board meeting. Those who missed the meeting were Historic Preservation Officers from Guam, Yap, and Chuuk. Also attending the meeting

were US National Park Service Representatives Mr. Hank Florence, Chief of the Region 9 Cultural Resource Team and Ms. Paula Falk-Creech, HPF Program Manager for American Samoa and Micronesia.

During the meeting new officers were elected with Resty Shotaro of the FSM National Historic Preservation Office taking the Presidency and Palau being elected Vice President. CNMI and RMI took the Secretarial and Treasurer posts respectively. *(continued on page 5 - MEHP)*

Continued from page 2 (MEHP)

Students in the WIA Student Summer Program Join BAC



Students with BAC Director, Dwight Alexander (fourth, left)

This year seven students joined BAC through the Workforce Investment Act (WIA)-Student Summer Program. The WIA-Student Summer Program provides training and employment opportunities to high school and college students in the Republic. These students are placed in government agencies as well as in elements of the private sector that are of interest to the students so that they can learn skills which will benefit their future careers.

Ms. Styla Ngiratebel, Palau High School Student, and Ms. Menrang Ngirchokebai, Palau High School Student, were placed in the Administration Section. Ms. Meiyok Chin, Palau High School Student, and Mr. Jethro Umayam, Palau High School Student, were placed in the Archaeology Section. Mr. Luke Willter, Palau Mission Academy Student, and Ms. Marissa Ambai, Palau High School Student, were placed in the Oral History and Ethnography Section. Mr. Ngrasikiang Orak, Palau High School Student, was placed in the Public Education Section. The students were very dedicated and eager to learn and contributed significantly by completing the tasks assigned to them from their respective sections. We hope to have students again this upcoming summer.

BAC's goal in participating in this program is to inspire these students so that they will consider further work and education in the field of historic and cultural preservation.

Historical Clearance Permits Issued

During the period of January 2009 to December 2009, the Bureau of Arts and Culture received three hundred and fifteen (315) applications for historic clearance. In most cases, BAC was able to assess the applications through using office database files and by conducting field visits, and issued permits accordingly.

Four proposed federal grant projects were granted historic clearance. They are: (1) House renovation through Palau Housing, (2) Construction of Ngiwal State access road by the Civic Action Team, (3) Construction of Ngardmau State Police Fire Station by the Civic Action Team, and (4) Explosive ordinance removal in Peleliu State by the U.S. Department of State.

One of the proposed projects namely the Ngerumelong Project in Ngermid, Koror was required to have a Memorandum of Agreement because the area contained a stone platform.

The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the project stipulated data recovery procedures occur for the platforms. BAC is committed to the protection of historical and cultural resources within the context of required regulations that is strict yet fair and encourages preservation while allowing development.

New BAC Staff

The Bureau of Arts and Culture (BAC) welcomes Ms. Sunny Ngirmang who came on board August 8, 2009. Ms. Ngirmang received her Bachelors Degree in Anthropology from the University of Hawaii, Hilo.

With her background, she will be an asset to Palau Register of Historic Places and Research Library Section where she will be working as the Palau Registrar who also maintains the Bureau's research library.



Ms. Sunny Ngirmang, Palau Registrar, Bureau of Arts and Culture

BAC Staff Present Overview of Bureau Services to Teachers

Cultural Anthropologist and Ethnographer Ms. Kelly Marsh and Historic Preservation Specialist Ms. Sylvia Kloulubak had the opportunity this year to provide a powerpoint presentation entitled, "Our Land, Our Heritage," to teachers during the Ministry of Education's annual orientation that occurs prior to the beginning of each new school year. Also present were two Workforce Investment Act (WIA) student interns, Luke Wilter and Sikyang Orak, who had worked at the Bureau over the summer. *(continued on page 4: Overview to Teachers)*



Participants of BAC Presentation

BAC Assist Palau High School Students In Historical Sites Research Project



(center) Ms. Kelly Marsh, Cultural Anthropologist/Ethnographer briefing the PHS Students

On August 27, 2009, students from a Palau High School (PHS) Palauan studies class visited the Bureau of Arts and Culture to conduct research on Palau historical sites. Part of the class assignment for each student was to choose one of the sixteen states of Palau and research one of its historical sites.

Ms. Kelly Marsh, Cultural Anthropologist/Ethnographer of the Bureau's Oral History and Ethnography Section, gave the students a briefing about what types of information the BAC research library

has regarding historical sites, such as oral history and archaeology reconnaissance survey reports for each state and brochures of restored historical sites. This is part of BAC's effort to help educate the public about the importance and significance of Palau's historical and cultural heritage. BAC welcomes students to conduct research in their research library however, due to limitation of space in the library and the shortage of staff, BAC asks that a request be made ahead of time to give the staff time to arrange their schedules, ready the research materials, and to set up study spaces for small research groups.

Ms. Ngirmang attends UNESCO meeting on Underwater Cultural Heritage

From 16 to 19 December 2009, Sunny Ngirmang of the Bureau of Arts & Culture attended a UNESCO meeting in the Pacific in Honiara, Solomon Islands on the protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage (UCH). The intent of this meeting was to draw together the Pacific countries represented in UNESCO to discuss laws, regulations, legislation, strategies, and advocacy geared towards the protection, management, and conservation of UCH sites. Participating Pacific regions include Palau, Samoa, Tonga, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Solomon Islands, Marshall Islands, Australia, Vanuatu, Kiribati, and Fiji. During the country presentations, *(continued on page 5: UNESCO Meeting)*

BAC Mourns Passing Away of Peleliu Historian



Ngirabrekong Jonathan Koshiba, Peleliu Historian

A great loss was felt among the Society of Historians for the passing away of one of its members. Ngirabrekong Jonathan Koshiba. He represented Peleliu State as a member of the Society.

Koshiba

served as a Member of the Society from February 11, 2004 to September 07, 2009. As a Member of the Society he was knowledgeable in the Palau culture and history and he was proclaimed a Living National Treasure of the Republic of Palau according to the proclamation by the Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs.

The Society of Historians, the Palau Historical and Cultural Advisory Board, the Minister of Community and Cultural Affairs, and the Bureau of Arts and Culture each provided proclamation letters for his family.

The Society of Historians and BAC, along with his family, relatives, his clan, and Peleliu State share the loss and sorrow for this wonderful father, brother, uncle, and colleague.

Historians' First Regular Session this Year

The Society of Historians held their first bi-annual session for 2009 from September 14 to 25, 2009. The historians met and discussed the history and current state of community clubs, which they will compile and publish as a booklet entitled, "Cheldebechel" (Clubs).

During their two-week session, Minister Faustina Rehuher-Marugg and directors of the Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs visited the historians and expressed their esteemed gratitude for the valuable work that the historians continue to carry out for the Republic.

Field School Training in Guam

Two staff from the Bureau of Arts and Culture, Director Dwight Alexander and Historic Preservation Specialist Calvin Emesiochel, attended a field school training in Guam from July 13 to 25, 2009.

The training examined various methods of documenting cultural and historical resources and making assessments for preservation. Calvin Emesiochel joined Director Alexander in attending the second and third week of the training but the Director had to return on July 20 in preparation for a trip to China in order to begin preparations for Palau's involvement in the World Expo 2010.

The second and third week were planned especially for the historic preservation offices (HPOs) and therefore topics included: The work of the Historical Preservation Office and the National Park Services; The work of the Guam Preservation Trust and the HPOs in the Pacific Region; The War in the Pacific National Historic Park; Cultural Landscapes, the List of Classified Structures and Maintenance Issues;



Japanese Tunnel in Agana, Guam

and Documentation of Historic Sites in the War in the Pacific National Historic Parks. The training provided important approaches that expand the knowledge and



Coastal Defense gun in Guam

abilities of each Historical Preservation Office in preserving cultural and historical resources. It sought partnership and collaboration with universities and companies in the region to promote the work of historical preservation. This included utilizing the limited number of experts available in this field. It also sought to provide training for the staff in each HPO, regional consultations, as well as opportunity to share and promote work being performed in each office.

PCC Cultural Trip to Ngarchelong State

On November 20, 2009, at the request of Project Beacon, Palau Community College, BAC Staff including, Ms. Sylvia Kloulubak, MS. Filly Carabit, and Mr. Phillip Tirso assisted several students in visiting historic sites in Ngarchelong State. The students were accompanied by Ms. Adora Nobuo, Program Counselor for Project Beacon, and Ms. Midori Mersai, Counselor. A staff member of Ngarchelong State office, Mr. Harper Skang, also came to assist as a tour guide.

The first stop was *Ewatel* (Fortress) in Ngerbau region. Students were shown the fortress that was made in one day using basalt rocks according to the oral history shared by Mr. Harper Skang. The second and final stop was *Badrulchau* (Stone Monoliths) in Ollei region, Ngarchelong State. Students were shown the site and briefed about its oral history. The trip was a success because students got to visit and learn about Palau's Historical sites.



PCC Students at Ewatel (Fortress) listening to its' oral history given by Mr. Harper Skang.



PCC Students at Badrulchau one of the many historical sites in Ngarchelong State

(continued from page 2: Overview to Teachers)

The presentation was an significant one to provide as the Bureau desires to pass on its message of the importance of preserving and maintaining Palauan culture and historic sites. BAC staff shared the Bureau's mission with the instructors, showcased many of Palau's unique cultural traditions and accomplishments, provided an organizational overview and brief history of the Bureau, and explained many of the services the Bureau of Arts & Culture can provide to teachers and students.

An enjoyable aspect of the presentation was answering the questions that followed the powerpoint show. The Q & A time created an opportunity for teachers and BAC staff to have meaningful dialogue about Palau's cultural and historical preservation issues and concerns. The instructors present were very interested in the services and products BAC provides. Towards the end of the open discussion, one teacher said she had been moved by the pictures of Palauan heritage shown in the presentation and that seeing them made her feel, "Proud to be Palauan."

All-in-all it was a very rewarding experience for Bureau staff and they look forward to presenting again at next year's Ministry of Education teacher orientation.

The items on the agenda which were discussed included a presentation by Mr. Hank Florence on procedures and regulations of the National Park Service that Historic Preservation Officers should be made aware of. These included the process for the nomination of sites into the US National Register of Historic Places and the US National Historic Landmark Program. He also discussed the World Heritage Center (WHC) and UNESCO's procedure for inscription of sites.

A number of the members contributed to the discussion including the discussion of each country's Tentative List for the WHC and nominations for inscription of those sites. Palau currently has five sites listed in the WHC's Tentative List with two in the process of being nominated. These are the Transboundary Yapese Stone Money Sites in Palau and Yap, namely the Yapese Stone Quarry site of Wet el Daob and Wet el Beluu/Yapese Stone Money Bank, and the Rock Island Southern Lagoon of Koror. Mr. Alexander explained Palau's experience in dealing with the World Heritage Center and described the remaining tasks for inscription of the two sites plus the other three remaining sites.

There was also roundtable discussion concerning reflections and lessons learned from the Pacific Archaeology Conference that was held in Palau prior to the MEHP Board meeting. This was a very fruitful discussion which included exploring the next step and way forward in archaeology in the Micronesian Region.

The MEHP board members also talked about the annual meeting of the National Council of State Historic Preservation Officers (NCSHPO) meeting and Advocacy Day in Washington, D.C. next year. This includes a week-long series of events and meetings with representatives of the US National Park Service and the US Department of Interior as well as US Congressional members including members of the House of Representatives and Senators to lobby for support for the National Park Service and especially funding for the State Historic Preservation Offices.

All participants expressed their heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to CNMI HPO Mr. Roy Sablan, Mr. June Duenas of Rota, Mr. Ronnie Rogers, Ms. Mertii Kani, and all the other staff from Saipan, Tinian and Rota, for their hospitality and assistance during the meeting. Special appreciation goes to Lt. Governor Eloy Inos and Mayor Inos of Rota for their warm hospitality and the wonderful dinners and feasts which they organized for the participants.

Site Visits to Restored Registered Sites

The Palau Registrar Ms. Sunny Ngirmang along with Ms. Sylvia Kloulubak, Historic Preservation Specialist, Mr. Errol Flynn T. Kloulechad, Historic Preservation Specialist, Ms. Kelly Marsh, Cultural Anthropologist/Ethnographer, and Ms. Samantha Rengulbai, BAC Research Library staff conducted site visits to restored registered sites.

On September 11, they visited Meduu el Bai (B:NH-1:2 F6) bai/stone platform site at Kayangel State. Personnel from the state office provided brief input about the maintenance work and other plans for the beautification of the site.

On September 25, they visited the Beluu er a Elab (B:NA-3:8) traditional village and the Chetoikeychang stone feature (B:NA-1-6) site. A Ngaraard state representative provided the site tour plus shared traditional stories of the sites.

On October 9, they visited restored sites in Airai State for assessment of site condition. The sites visited were Metuker ra Bisech (B:IR-2:24), li ra Itemruchel (B:IR-2:29), Chelechol ra Orrak (B:IR-1:23), Chades er a Mechorei (B:IR-1:15), the Gun Emplacement/75mm Japanese WWII Coastal Defense Gun (B:IR-2:34), Ngelung, and Beluu er a Ngeruluobel (B:IR-3:2; Restored 2007).

On November 3, they visited Ngardmau State's restored sites. They were accompanied by Ngardmau State Government representative Mr. Goerge Towai to visit their restored registered sites for assessment of site condition. The sites visited were Olketokel er a Udoud el Bad (stone feature) B:NR-02:01 F1 and Orsachel er a Dub (stone feature) B:NR-02:01 F27. The Railroad Tracks (historic remains) B:NR-05:12 was visited early August 2009.

One of the responsibilities of the Palau Registrar is to visit and monitor restored registered sites for a period of six (6) years after site restoration. This allows BAC to work with state representatives to provide effective site recommendations and assessment for the betterment, maintenance, preservation, and conservation of the states' registered historical/cultural sites. Furthermore, the assessment reports provide additional reference materials for the state for future use.



Meduu el Bai - bai/stone platform B:NH-1:2-f6 at Kayangel State, restored in 2000



L-R: Palau Registrar Sunny Ngirmang, President, Australian Institute for Maritime Archaeology Ross Anderson, and State Maritime Archaeologist NSW Sara Ward

(continued from page 3: UNESCO Meeting)

Palau was the only island nation that had legislation in place for the protection of UCH—the Palau Lagoon Monument. Ms. Ngirmang presented case studies which the Lagoon Monument was enacted. Other countries such as Tonga and PNG wanted to use Palau's legislation (PNC Title 19) as a baseline guide to create their own legislation.

Ms. Ngirmang believes that archaeology, including underwater archaeology, has yet to receive its much needed recognition and appreciation within the Palauan community and youth activists. Ms. Ngirmang says, "Underwater archaeology offers a vast selection of heritage wealth for the understanding and interpretation of our past and past events. This will promote effective and sustainable resource management, training, education and awareness, and advocacy that will ignite community-based efforts for preserving archaeological sites—on land and submerged or semi-submerged". Contact the Bureau of Arts & Culture for further information about underwater cultural heritage or underwater archaeology.

HISTORIANS CORNER

Omengull - Respect

Omengull, respect for individuals, community, and the nation as a whole, remains an important value in Palauan life and permeates all levels of Palauan society. *Omen-gull* is taught at an early age at home and Palauans grow up knowing how to show respect to family members, elders, and people outside the family. Respect has been a key feature in building an orderly Palauan society. These are examples of how *omengull* was practiced in Palau:

- When a young person walks on the road and encounters an elder, he/she should stand on the side of the road and let the elder pass by before he/she continues walking. In addition, if a young person meets a man or woman who is carrying a heavy load, as an act of respect that person should stop and carry the man or woman's load to where he/she is going.
- When a young person addresses an elder woman or man, regardless of whether they are related to them, they should call them "*chedil*" for a woman and "*chedam*" for a man. This is a respectful way for Palauans to address someone who is his/her senior. It is also not appropriate for a young person to ask for a betelnut from an elder woman or man. As for those who have chiefly titles, they should be called by their title and not by their first name. In addition, when a young person, either male or female, passes a group of men or women, they should bow their heads, addressing them as "*osesus*."
- If a person sees a man or woman who is his/her senior that doesn't have a place to sit, that young person should give up his/her place to them.
- Children leave the premise of the house when someone comes to see their parents. This is an act of respect to his/her parents as well as prevents him/her from hearing what is being discussed.
- A respectful way to answer to a person calling us is either by saying "*uuu*" or "*uang*". These responses carry a message of humbleness and respect to the person who is calling. When a man calls another man, either related or not related to him, who is older or younger, it should be "*chudelei*" (older male) or "*ochellei*" (younger male) respectively. As for females it should be "*chudelek*" (older female/sister) or "*merrengek*" (young female/sister).
- When walking inside the house, the person should not stomp his/her feet to make so much noise. He/she should try to minimize noise when walking inside the house.

These were some basic examples of *omengull* observed between individuals in Palau. The traditional etiquette of respect has long continued to bring order to Palauan society.

REGULATION FOR HISTORICAL/CULTURAL PROPERTIES

It is illegal to take, remove, alter or damage any historical 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 Title 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.

Bureau of Arts & Culture/Palau Historical Preservation Office (Obis Er A Ibetel A Cherechar)

Ministry of Community & Cultural Affairs

P.O. Box 100, Koror, PW 96940

Telephone No.: (680) 488-2489/3361 Fax: (680) 488-2657

Email Address: hispres@palaunet.com

DISCLAIMER STATEMENT

This publication was put together by the Bureau of Arts & Culture/ Historic Preservation Office in partnership with the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, United States of America. However, the contents and information contained herein does not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of the Interior.

NON- DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

The Palau Bureau of Arts & Culture and Palau Historic Preservation Program receives US Federal financial assistance for recordation of oral histories and traditions, identification and protection of cultural, traditional, and historic sites and properties. The US Department of Interior strictly prohibits unlawful discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or handicap. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any programs, activity or facility operated by a recipient of Federal assistance should write to:

Director, Equal Opportunity Programs, U.S Department of Interior, National Park Service, P.O Box 37127, Washington D.C 20013-7127