



IBETEL A KLEBELAU

Quarterly Newsletter

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INDEPENDENCE DAY, UNITED NATIONS DAY, WORLD FOOD DAY & OLECHOTEL BELAU FAIR 2011



Once again, the Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs; the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism; and the Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Industries and Commerce joined in a cooperative effort to put together an annual combined celebration of the Republic of Palau's Independence Day, World Food Day, United Nations Day, and the Olechotel Belau Fair. The theme was *Kibael el Kerruul* (A Balanced and Sustainable Economy).

The festivities ran for three days—September 30 through October 1 and 2, with all sixteen states participating in the various activities of the Fair. Private sectors, NGO's and other entities' booths displayed and sold arts and crafts, farm produce, and plants. There was also a display of farm animals and marine resources as well as the sale of food and drinks at other booths.

The Parade of Nations kicked off the three days of festivities followed by an opening ceremony. Music and other entertainment were provided throughout the Fair. Traditional sports and games, a jewelry contest, food tasting, a clay pottery exhibition and demonstration, a visual arts exhibition, a music contest, and traditional dance performances were held on the first two days

of the fair.

The main venue was at the former Olbiil Era Kelulau (OEK – National Congress) building vicinity from September 30th through October 1st. October 2nd consisted of water activities, including a special sailing exhibition of the Koror State traditional war canoe "*Ouklikm*" and a boat race held at the Japan-Palau Friendship Bridge.



BAC Staff Attends Underwater Archaeology Conference

Bureau of Arts & Culture staff Calvin Eme-siochel and Sunny Ngirmang attended and gave a presentation at *The Inaugural Asian Academy for Heritage Management (AAHM) Asia-Pacific regional conference on Underwater Cultural Heritage*. The conference was held from Nov. 8-12, 2011 in Manila, Philippines. Neighbouring friends and colleagues from the Guam, CNMI and the Republic of the Marshall Islands historic preservation offices also participated in the conference. Newly hired BAC archaeology staff, Suzanne Finney, also attended the conference representing the Maritime Archaeology and History of the Hawaiian Islands Foundation (MAHHI).

This conference aimed to exchange and disseminate information about underwater cultural heritage (UCH) in Asia and the countries of the Indian and Pacific Oceans; facilitate professional development for underwater archaeologists and underwater cultural heritage managers in the Asia-Pacific region; provide a forum for discussion and exchange of ideas about and approaches to underwater cultural heritage and underwater archaeology; **continued on page 3: Underwater Archaeology Conf.**

Traditional Knowledge and Expressions of Culture (TKEC) National Workshop



The Bureau of Arts and Culture, with support from the Secretariat of the Pacific (SPC), conducted a National Workshop on Traditional Knowledge and Expressions of Culture (TKEC) held October 13 and 14, 2010 at the Palasia Hotel located in Koror.

Traditional Knowledge and Expressions of Culture are those important intangible aspects of

Palauan culture handed down to us by our ancestors from generation to generation. In this modern world of globalization and increasing interconnectedness, it is important for us to be protecting our heritage from unauthorized appropriation and exploitation by those from outside Palau. Therefore, as other Pacific nations and indigenous peoples are doing, the government of Palau must find ways to safeguard TKEC heritage for the generations of today and of the future.

The symposium provided overviews of what the TKEC issues are. Presenters also discussed the ways that other areas in the Pacific are safeguarding their TKEC and explained the features of the current legislative bill written to safeguard Palau's TKEC. The attendees actively participated in the discussions and provided further recommendations as to how Palau should safeguard its TKEC.

297 Development Projects were Granted Historical Clearance Permits

During the period of January 2011 to December 2011, the Bureau reviewed 297 applications of development projects for Historic Clearance. These development projects included proposed construction of new access roads, improvement of existing access roads, building of new residences and apartments, clearing projects, renovation of existing buildings and residences, extension of homes, landfill projects, building of retaining walls, and other earthmoving projects.

As mandated by law, the Bureau must review and determine the effects of any public and/or private development projects to ensure that Palau's unique historic and cultural resources, irretrievable once destroyed, are protected and preserved.

Before any development project begins, a Historical Clearance Permit must be obtained from the Bureau of Arts and Culture. Applications for Historical Clearance permits are available at the Bureau of Arts and Culture and through EQPB. Please contact the Bureau for more information about this permit process.

16 State Historical Sites Posters



(l) Filly Carabit, BAC staff presenting the Kayangel State Poster to (r) Tracy Ruluked of Kayangel State Government

In 2011, the BAC program area of Public Education compiled and produced 16 posters, one per state, to showcase their respective cultural and historical sites. The poster of each state's cultural and historical sites is meant to publicize the unique tangible heritage of each state so that the state government, state leaders, and the younger generations of each state will be aware of and have more knowledge about their area's unique and invaluable cultural properties.

The posters are sizeable two by three foot posters. Each of the 16 states were presented with a copy of their respective state poster.

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

INTERIOR SURVEY IN NGCHESAR STATE

After a two year hiatus, the Survey and Inventory/Archaeology Section along with the Oral History and Ethnography Section are continuing the state by state interior survey of historical and archaeological sites and associated oral histories. Currently, the Archaeology survey team—Archaeological Surveyor Calvin Emesiochel, Preservation Compliance Officer Temael Kloulechad, and Staff Archaeologist Suzanne Finney—are working in Ngchesar with the assistance of local guides Zacharias Siangeldeb and Dino Mibuk. Since November 2011 they have been hiking through the interior of the state, from the Compact Road to *Rael Kedam*. Meanwhile, Ethnographer Assistant Sylvia Kloulubak is collecting oral histories and life histories from Elders of the state. The results of the survey will be used to help the BAC protect and preserve significant cultural and historical sites and intangible cultural heritage in Palau.



Temael Kloulechad mapping a Palauan traditional site near *Rael Kedam*.

BELKUL A TEKOI ER A BELAU

Ng mla mkelii a tual. Ng mlengai er a omelalem el del-lomel (tuu), el mdelemii, e mengoeas er ngii el mo ouro-dech e mochu meridm er ngii. Ng okesiu el kirel a teletael er a klechad er kid a rechad er Belau, el bechiil el redil a ngerchelir el omekang e mangedmokl er a sechal me a rchedal me ng mo mimokl a udoud er a bechil el sechal me a rchedal el mo er ngii.

continued from page 1: Underwater Archaeology Conf.

provide opportunities for future trainings, and management strategies that can help minimize looting; promote education and awareness of underwater archaeological sites; publish the proceedings both online and in print for dissemination to a wide audience. A wide range of people involved with underwater cultural heritage conference attended including those from universities, government agencies, museums, NGOs, IGOs, the private sector and the community.

Underwater cultural heritage professionals from throughout the Indian and Pacific oceans gathered together for the inaugural Asia-Pacific Underwater Cultural Heritage Conference. With over 80 papers, 3 keynote addresses, and several posters and videos presented during the numerous sessions, the proceedings from this event represent perhaps the single best collection of UCH work done thus far in this region. In an effort to help share this scholarship with colleagues worldwide, the conference organizers and the MUA have teamed up to make the proceedings freely available online. The advanced search function allows visitors to search across all abstracts, titles, and authors and to view the PDFs of each talk. To view the proceedings please visit the link on the MUA homepage at <http://www.themua.org>.

The conference was organized and sponsored by the National Museum of the Philippines, UNESCO with the support of the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage, the Australian Government, the Australian Institute for Maritime Archaeology Inc., National Research Institute of Maritime Cultural Heritage, and many others.

HISTORIANS CORNER

Ke Medengei?

Tekoi Ma Belkul

Bellemakl - chelellakl el melalem er a uldesuel.

Chellubes - chedecholl ma lechub e ng bar el mo er a bebul a chad el medei er a debull e medakl.

Debes - blengur el mo er ngii er a uriul ra sis ma omengades ra mlad rubak el mle telechull er a kebekuul ma lechub el teleuechel el dui ma dirrek el rubak el dil. Tiang a bo lorrakl er ngii ar sechelil a mlad el rubak ma lechub e ng rubak el dil er a bai. E tiai a sils el kirir el mo medengelii a beches el mo nguu a kebekuul ma lechub e ng teleuechel el dui el mo sechelirir.

Diaches - kukau el telngoech ma lechub e ng derratel e che-lilt ra reng e uldioll er a ditel ma llel el belkul a rengul a medei el chad.

Diall - udoud el odengesir a rulab a dui el mechas a lemad e lak el bechiil.

Protect and Preserve Our Cultural and Historical Properties.

Reminder:

It shall be unlawful for any
person, natural or
corporate, to take,
appropriate, excavate,
injure, destroy, or alter any
registered historical site or
sites deemed eligible for
inclusion in the Palau
Register of Historic Places

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 send an email to hispres@palaunet.com.

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

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