



IBETEL A KLEBELAU

Quarterly Newsletter

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Peleliu Leaders and Palau HPO Officials Meet Guam & NMI WW II Park Official



On Saturday March 17, a meeting was organized by the Superintendent of the War in the Pacific National Historical Park and the American Memorial Park in Guam and CNMI, Ms. Barbara Alberti. In attendance were the Palau HPO, Mr. Dwight Alexander, and Bridget Iyar as well as officials from the Palau Grantor Agency Mr. Droteo Nagata and Augusta Kintaro. Also present were the Governor of Peleliu, Mr. Kangichi Uchau; the Chairman of the Peleliu State Historical and Cultural Commission, Mr. Temmy Shmull; and Chief Obak representing the Peleliu Council of Chiefs; Mr. Hank Florence, Chief of the NPS Pacific West Region; and Ms. Paula Creech, Program Manager for American Samoa, FAS, CNMI and Guam; and Cari Kreshak of the NPS Pacific West Region Office, Honolulu, Hawaii Office. Mr. Steve Cypra of the Peleliu State Historical and Cultural Society, a resident of Alaska, also participated in the meeting through tele-conferencing. The meeting was held at the NPS Office in Guam.

The meeting focused on Peleliu's request, as a US National Historic Landmark (NHL), for Technical Assistance from the US National Park Service. The technical assistance consisted of four main items. First was a request for capacity building of the Peleliu State Historical and Cultural Commission so that it would be able to conduct its business. The main objective of the Commission is to coordinate and oversee all work relating to historical and cultural preservation in Peleliu.

The second request was for the training of tour operators in Peleliu and perhaps the development of a visitor center where information about Peleliu would be available to those visiting the island. It would also serve as a clearing house for all visitors to get permits, maps, brochures, and information such as on the guidelines regarding historical sites and other significant features. Several possibilities were discussed concerning this matter including a possible sister park agreement in which the park in Guam would provide support

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BAC Presents at Palau High School



On March 7, 2012, the Bureau of Arts and Culture/Palau Historic Preservation Office (BAC) staff Ms. Sylvia Kloulubak, Historic Preservation Specialist, accompanied by Ms. Filly Carabit, Historic Preservation Specialist, provided a power point presentation on Traditional Leadership (*Ibetel a Uldelid e Ulekerreu el Omerreder er Belau*) to a Palau High School Palauan class. Also included in the presentation was highlighting the importance of preserving and protecting Palau's unique and precious cultural heritage.

The Bureau of Arts and Culture would like to thank the Palauan class instructor Mr. Lee Ngirakesau for including a presentation by the BAC in his lesson plan.

Presentations such as this are just one part of the Bureau's on-going efforts to educate the public about Palauan cultures and historical treasures.

PALAU HPO ATTENDS MICRONESIAN ENDOWMENT FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION (MEHP) ANNUAL MEETING



The Bureau of Arts & Culture under the Ministry of Community & Cultural Affairs participated in three meetings on Guam from March 10-17, 2012. The Bureau was represented by its Director Mr. Dwight Alexander who is also the Historic Preservation Officer (HPO) and his Financial Manager Ms. Bridget Iyar. Joining them for the second and third meeting were officers from their Grantor Agency, the Palau Community Action Agency—Executive Director, Mr. Droteo Nagata and Financial Officer, Ms. Augusta Kintaro.

The first meeting was for the Board of Directors of the Micronesian Endowment for Historic Preservation (MEHP) chaired by the Guam HPO. This meeting took place March 10th and 12th at the Marriott Hotel in Guam. The MEHP has held annual meetings dating back 32 years, when the Micronesian entities first started receiving the Historic Preservation Fund Grant, or HPF grant, to help their efforts in historic preservation. The meetings are becoming more and more important as the HPOs from the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the FSM national and state level historic preservation offices, CNMI, Guam, and Palau are faced with a broad variety of

challenges in carrying out historic preservation work.

The current MEHP President is the HPO for Guam, Ms. Lynda Aguon, and the Vice-President is the CNMI HPO. The FSM National HPO serves as the Secretary with the RMI HPO serving as the Treasurer. This year's meeting focused on interpreting the regulations that govern the MEHP work. The documents governing the work of the MEHP are quite old and need updating. The second focus of the MEHP meeting was to discuss its activities for the next two years, before the end of the term of the current officers.

There has not been a clear direction regarding the work of the MEHP and while a few objectives have been identified, there did not appear to be clear collaboration between the officers to determine how the objectives could be achieved. *(Continued on page 3: MEHP Meeting)*

BAC STAFF ATTEND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING IN GUAM



Pictured (l-r): Suzanne Finney, Kelly Marsh, Sunny Ngirmang, Temaël Kloulechad, Lynda Tellames.

Not pictured: Calvin Emesiochel.

Six members of the Bureau of Arts and Culture/Palau Historic Preservation Office participated in a three-day Cultural Landscape training exercise in Guam from March 5-9, 2012. The training was hosted by the War in

the Pacific National Historical Park and the Guam Preservation Trust. It was conducted by the U.S. National Park Service.

The BAC staff trips were funded by a grant from the National Park Service. The staff attended the training as part of the continuing professional development objectives of the BAC. Training included lectures by U.S. National Park Service officials and field exercises using examples from Guam's local and national parks. The training included staff from other Historic Preservation Offices in Guam, the Marshall Islands, Pohnpei, Kosrae, Yap, and the CNMI.

MR. THOMAS TECHUR RETIRED



(l-r) Minister Faustina Rehuher-Marugg, Thomas Techur, and Director Dwight Alexander

On February 29, 2012, Mr. Thomas Techur retired from the Bureau of Arts and Culture after years of dedicated service as the Palau Historic Preservation Maintenance Technician. Mr. Techur retired with over 30 years of service.

A small farewell dinner coordinated by the BAC staff was held on February 29, 2012 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. Techur and wish him a long and happy retirement.

(Continued from page 2: MEHP Meeting)

Further, no plan was designed to try and achieve those objectives. The session was spent as a brainstorming session geared toward defining MEHP objectives and goals and toward identifying possible ways to work towards those goals. Clearly the challenges of each of the Historic Preservation Offices include: shortage in staff, funding constraints, lack of experts, the need for networking with higher institutions, as well as linking to international or regional agencies.

It was generally agreed that in order to move things forward, the MEHP would need to find the resources to hire someone to work with all the HPOs to integrate all of their needs into a common strategy that would address each of their goals. Therefore, it was decided that the President and the Treasurer will work to assess the funding status of the organization, identify ways to fundraise, and seek other possible sources of funding to see if, within a year's time, enough funds would be available to allow for the hiring of an Executive Officer for the organization. The Executive Officer would then work with each HPO to identify office needs and would develop a plan that could be presented to potential donors.

The next meeting was the NPS Annual Consultation Meeting which took place from March 13th to the 16th at the Marriott Hotel in Guam. The meeting was led by Chief Hank Florence of the National Park Service and the Program Manager for American Samoa, Freely Associated States, CNMI, and Guam, Ms. Paula Creech. The meeting is held each year to hear about the progress of the work of those historic preservation offices and to provide updates on their implementation of the HPF grant.

The NPS Annual Consultation began with presentations from each HPO at the University of Guam (UOG) Charter Day conference. Each of the Historic Preservation Offices informed audiences comprised of students and instructors from UOG as well as visiting professors from the University of Hawaii and the Guam Community College, officers from the Guam Preservation Trust, and other cultural resource managers about the activities being carried out by each Historic Preservation Office in their efforts to record, document, and develop plans to preserve the region's tangible and intangible historical and cultural heritage. Aside from the work of the Historic Preservation Offices, the Palau HPO, Dwight Alexander gave a presentation on Palau's nominations of sites to the World Heritage list and about its partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Communities to draft national cultural policies.

After the Charter Day conference events, the NPS officials focused on the day to day affairs of the HPO offices from budget allocations, US Department of Interior standards which must be followed, as well as on standards set by the US Office of the Management and Budget (OMB), and other requirements for managing historic preservation funds awarded to each Historic Preservation Office. There were also a number of collaborative initiatives that were agreed to by the HPOs for the next year. These initiatives included training for the staff, sharing of technical expertise, finding ways to get the information on the web for all to learn from or contribute to in order to help build each HPO's capacity.

There were also reports on new programs with other regional and international agencies. Palau gave two presentations on their activities with UNESCO including the Republic of Palau's two nominations to the World Heritage list. Currently, there is the trans-boundary nomination of the Yapese quarries in Chelchol ra Orrak located in Palau and the Mangyol stone money bank located in Yap. There is also the nomination of the Rock Island Southern Lagoon by Koror State Government assisted by the Bureau of Arts and Culture and the Palau National Commission for UNESCO. The meeting was very useful in light of the budget constraints being faced by each office. Next year's meeting will be held in Palau and each HPO has been asked to report on the accomplishments realized by each office as a result of the new initiatives.

PRESENTATION AT KOROR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



On March 14, 2012, at the request of the Koror Elementary School, the Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs (MCCA) staff, namely Ms. Sylvia Kloulubak, Historic Preservation Specialist, and Ms. Filly Carabit, BAC Public Education Officer, along with Ms. Ann K. Singeo, Chief of Division of Gender, and Ms. Kiblas Soaladaob, Consultant of MCCA, had the opportunity to provide powerpoint presentations to Koror Elementary School students who had been placed into groups consisting of 4th-8th graders. MCCA staff provided three separate presentations. These were entitled, "BAC Mission and Oral History & Ethnography Section Overview," "Intangible Cultural Heritage," and "Moon Cycle/Traditional Calendar and Ebiil Summer Camp Information." The presentations were repeatedly presented to rotated groups of students from between the hours of 8:30am to 11:30am as part of the Learning Day Fair within the MOE Education Awareness Week.

The students were very attentive and actively participated by eagerly responding to the questions being asked of them.

The MCCA office was very happy to be part of the Learning Day Fair and hope to provide presentations again during next year's Education Awareness Week.

HISTORIANS CORNER

Ke Medengei?

Tekoi Ma Belkul

Nglingil - blechebechel (organization).

Kaudiais - kakull e kaiurenges, kadengemes (a state of relationship where respect, adoration, and basically omelengmes, that Palauan value of always thinking of the other person first, prevails).

Modeuades - chellelakl el budech (quiet peace).

Omelluu - omelanges mad ma klengariou el reng ma omelengemes (humbleness, deep respect and thinking of others first).

Ouerrong - omecheracheb e omekdakt (to oppress and intimidate).

Tichiiu - udoud el bo lomoket a ruurrot el ua lodengesel a rubak el mo tuchelii a dui (money gathered by elder women of the clan, offered to the male who is the new title holder).

(continued from page 1: Peleliu meet Guam & NMI WW II Park Officials)

to assist the Commission. Other agencies offered to assist in providing maps, posters, brochures and other information which may be useful to tourists. Chairman Shmull said it is critical that they are able to monitor the movements of visitors and for the visitors to appreciate all aspects of the history of Peleliu including artifacts and other features so they are not disturbed or looted.

The third request aimed at improving the museum where an inventory and a data base of all exhibit items could be maintained. Such a system would also alert the museum staff if exhibit items disappear. Regular inventory should be able to allow for detection of when things disappear and actions would then be able to be taken to recover those items. Possible technical support from the Belau National Museum should also be explored to see if they can help in this area.

The fourth request concerned battlefield preservation in which an assessment would be carried out on historic Japanese buildings located in Peleliu. The aim of this request is not to reconstruct the buildings but to strengthen them in order to prevent them from collapsing, and to perhaps identify areas for visitors to observe them without being subjected to risks. The priority was to assess the former Japanese headquarters building but the assessment will also include other buildings on Peleliu. The grant will be administered by the BAC professional staff in consultation with the Peleliu

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.

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