

**SUMMARY REPORT
FOR
FY'12
HISTORIC PRESERVATION SYMPOSIUM**

GRANT NO. 70-12-41964



**By:
Bureau of Arts and Culture/Palau Historic Preservation Program
Ministry of Community & Cultural Affairs
Government of Palau
Republic of Palau**

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***Cover photograph:** Group picture of symposium participants and symposium highlights (see appendix for a full listing of participant names).

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INTRODUCTION

The Historic Preservation Symposium was held on August 22 & 23, 2013, a two-day symposium. This year the BAC office held the 2-day symposium in Koror State. The reason for bringing the symposium to the state community is for the respective state people to join and contribute to the discussion and decision of ways to preserve and protect our cultural and historical heritage. In addition, to spread awareness and publicize the importance of protecting and preserving Palau's cultural heritage and historic and cultural resources to all the people in each of the sixteen states of Palau by holding the symposium from state to state each year.

The theme of the symposium was “*Mengeluolu e Klekar a Ibetel a Cherechar er a Belau*” (Preserving and Protecting Palau's Cultural & Historical Heritage). The venue for the first day was at Koror State Assembly Hall, Koror State. The first day was a whole day of presentations and dialogue sessions. The second day was a field trip to Koror State historical and cultural sites located at the Koror State rock islands and after a wrap up session and closing at Ulong (rock island).

Purpose: The objectives of the symposium were:

1. To educate the public and to make them aware of the importance of protecting and preserving Palau's cultural heritage and historic and cultural resources;
2. To publicize the Bureau of Arts and Culture's programs and its mission;
3. To continue to educate the key community leaders and to gain their support in regards to policy issues of related areas; and
4. To continue to create innovative ways to entice and motivate our young generation to respect and practice our customs and traditions so they can pass it on generation to generation.

Participants: The participants consisted of key collaborative partners in the community, which included:

1. Koror State Cultural Affairs Staff
2. Koror State Gov't Staff
3. Airai State Governor
4. Airai State Gov't Representatives
5. Ngchesar State Governor
6. Ngchesar State Gov't Representative
7. Aimeliik State Gov't Representative
8. Ngarchelong State Gov't Representatives
9. Angaur State Gov't Representative
10. Ngatpang State Gov't Representative
11. Ngardmau State Gov't Representative
12. Peleliu State Representative
13. Maiberel Representative
14. Ministry of Education Representative
15. Members of the Society of Historians
16. Members of the Palau Historical & Cultural Advisory Board
17. Palau Community Action Agency
18. Belau National Museum

19. Protected Areas Network Office
20. Environmental Quality Protection Board
21. Emmaus High School Students Representatives
22. Palau International Coral Reef Center
23. Council of Chiefs Representative
24. Bureau of Youth Representative
25. Wave Radio
26. Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs

The total number of participants on Day #1 was sixty (60) and on Day 2 the total number was thirty (30), representing various government and non-government agencies, organizations/clubs, and traditional groups. Participants actively participated in the discussions on Day 1 and wrap up session on Day 2.

Registration: The day began with the Registration of participants.

DAY 1- AUGUST 22, 2013

Invocation: Father, Rusk Saburo opened the program with a prayer.

Chant: **Dirrengechel** Sariang Timulch, Palau Historical and Cultural Advisory Borad Member, performed the opening chant after the invocation.

Welcoming Remarks: Director Scott Yano of Koror State Cultural Affairs Department, Koror State Government warmly welcomed the BAC staffs, Historians, Palau Historical and Cultural Advisory Board, guest speakers, and participants to the State of Koror.

Opening Remarks:

Andrew Shiro, Chairman of the Palau Historical and Cultural Advisory Board thanked the Governor of Koror State for co-hosting this 2-day symposium. Our theme for this year symposium is “*Mengeluolu e Klekar a Ibetel a Cherechar er a Belau*” (Preserving and Protecting Palau’s Cultural & Historical Heritage). We have to both preserve and protect our cultural and historical heritage. The preserving and protection of our heritage must be first be taught at home then at school and at the community. We must continue to strengthen our heritage for it is what defines us as Palauans. This symposium is important for it brings all the stakeholders together and share experiences, concerns, challenges, and recommendations for the preservation and protection of our precious cultural and historical heritage.

Special Remarks:

Minister Baklai Temengil had an unforeseen important meeting she had to attend so she came late to give her special remarks. She thanked all the state representatives and all the participants for attending this important symposium. This symposium is important for it brings all the stakeholders together and share recommendations, concerns, and their challenges for the protection, preservation, and promotion of our rich cultural and historical heritage. All the comments, recommendations, and concerns are needed by the

Bureau of Arts and Culture office to be able to better plan and implement projects towards the preservation, protection, and promotion of our heritage.

Photo Session and Tea Break were held after the opening ceremony.

Summary Overview of BAC by Acting Director Sunny Ngirmang:

After the opening ceremony, Acting Director/SHPO of the Bureau of Arts and Culture, Ms. Sunny Ngirmang, gave a brief overview of the work of the Bureau of Arts and Culture and a brief overview of the symposium which was to build networks and partnerships in order to strengthen this year's theme. The symposium objectives are: to share and get community ideas about the importance of cultural heritage; to establish a network between the national government and the states; and to strengthen the network to protect and preserve our heritage.

SESSION #1: PRESENTATION OF STATE GOVERNMENT

Koror State Government Presentation:

Mr. Bethwel Emul, Program Coordinator, Koror State Cultural Affairs and Ms. Princess Blailes, PAN Coordinator, Koror State Government gave a PowerPoint presentation of tasks, programs, and projects of Koror State Cultural and Historical properties. Mr. Emul presented the organizational structure of Koror State government, site managers list, list of Koror State cultural and historical properties that have been surveyed and identified by the Bureau of Arts and Culture. Their office is tasks to preserve and promote the Koror State Cultural and Historical Heritage and they have in place a management plan for the protection and preservation of Koror State heritage sites. Ms. Princess Blailes, PAN Coordinator, Koror State Government continued the presentation in presenting the Koror State Protected Areas which are both in the category of natural and cultural sites. Issues and Challenges are: 1) Environmental Weathering (Climate Change; 2.) Natural Disasters (Typhoon Bopha); 3) Human Activities (Tourist Activity); 4) Community's Cultural Connection (People no longer Live in the Rock Islands); and 5.) WWII Relics (Action Plan identify, register and protect etc.) Future Plan is as follows: By 2014 Develop plan to protect and preserve historical relics, including creation of registry
By 2015 50% of the traditional *cheldebechel* of Koror have access to information on and value the importance of the RISL to Koror's cultural heritage.
By 2016 a permanent exhibit depicting RISL and Koror State cultural traditions and historic era is established at the Belau National Museum.
By 2016 develop a program for protecting and rehabilitating cultural sites and features in the RISL, including creation of a registry, and development of protocols and plans.
"The only way to protect our planet is in an efficient and coordinated manner" Quoted by Prince Albert of Monaco.

Airai State Government Presentation:

Ms. Remurang Rengulbai, Coordinator, Historical and Cultural Department, Airai State government, gave a PowerPoint presentation on tasks, projects, and programs of Airai State Cultural and Historical Department. The responsibilities of this department are: 1) to protect, safeguard, and preserve Airai state cultural and historical heritage; 2) maintain Airai State cultural and historical sites; and 3) implement and enforce Airai State cultural and historical preservation act. In 1997, Airai State Legislature passes

into law an Airai State Preservation Act No. A-2-27-97. Airai state has 116 sites that has been surveyed and identified by Bureau of Arts and Culture and their are more that hasn't been surveyed and identified. 14 of these sites have been registered into the Palau register of historical sites by the Bureau of Arts and Culture. 7 of these sites have been restored. These restored sites contribute to the revenue generating funds of Airai state as a tourist attraction. These sites are not only use for tourist but also for locals and students to learn about the state cultural and historical properties and its history. The Cultural and Historical Department of Airai State government has compiled the following: 1) an Oral History of Airai State including place names and its map of the 6 hamlets of Airai state; 2) Traditional War Canoe (kabekl) parts name; and 3) Collected descriptions and/or stories of the arts on the beam of the traditional men's meeting house (*Bai*) to be produced into a booklet. On-going projects are: 1) assist students in site visits; and 2) collect and compile previous to recent songs composed by Airai state citizens. Reminder to all of us; to strengthen our willpower and determination to preserve, protect, safeguard, implement, and enforce our preservation act of our precious cultural and historical heritage, for these are very important to us for it also contributes to the study of the history of our island and our past and reminder of our heritage so that we may not lose them and pass them on to the next generation. In addition for a sustainable economy.

Aimeliik State Government Presentation:

Ms. Lely Obakrebau, Coordinator, Cultural and Historical Department, Aimeliik State gave a PowerPoint presentation of Aimeliik state preservation and protection projects, programs, and tasks in its cultural and historical heritage. Classification of 115 sites identified in Aimeliik State.

- 37 Terraces
- 24 Stone features
- 19 Traditional Villages
- 14 Historical Remains (WWII)
- 8 Landmarks
- 7 Scattered Sherds
- 3 Dock
- 2 Taro Patches
- 1 Shell Midden

14 of these sites are registered under Palau Historical Preservation.

The famous terraced hills of Aimeliik is terraces of Ngebedech. Estimated to be constructed around 2,400 years ago, monumental architectures, registered in the US Historic Sites registrar.

Ngarchelong State Government Presentation:

Mr. Keizy Kuroda, Ngarchelong State Government Staff, gave a presentation on Ngarchelong State cultural and historical sites. At present Ngarchelong State have sixteen (16) registered historical sites. Two (2) of these sites namely (1) Badrulchau (Stone Monolith); and (2) Todai (Japanes Light House) are restored and are tourist attractions for the state of Ngarchelong. Ngarchelong state continues to support and believe that they must maintain and strengthen the effort in the preservation and protection of their cultural and historical heritage. In addition, they strongly support the education and awareness of our heritage to the young generation.

Ngchesar State Government Presentation:

Governor Zacheus Kotaro, Ngchesar State government, gave a brief presentation of Ngchesar state cultural and historical properties by reading out the list of its registered sites. Ngchesar state hasn't done much in the preservation and protection of Ngchesar state cultural and historical properties. Ngchesar state intends to develop projects, and programs for the preservation, protection, safeguarding, implementation, and enforcement of its preservation act.

SESSION #2: PRESENTATION OF PROTECTED AREAS NETWORK (PAN)

Mr. Obichang Skebong, Senior PAN Coordinator gave a PowerPoint presentation of PAN. Mr. Skebong commented that the historical and cultural sites are eligible to be included as PAN site to be eligible for funding provided it meets all the requirements and pass through the nomination process. At present 13 states are members of the PAN. Marine sites to be conserve is 58% areas. At present only 16.98% is PAN sites. Terrestrial Sites to be conserve is in total of 20% areas. At present only 6.45% is PAN Sites. Currently, no cultural/historical site nomination. PAN allows for cultural/historical sites to be included (24 PNCA § 3404 (d)); Historical and Cultural Preservation Act, and Follows same nomination process. Prioritization of sites, Biophysical factors (biodiversity, resilience, etc.), Socioeconomic factors (livelihood, cultural/historical importance, etc.). Encourage all state to join PAN and to register their cultural and historical sites into the PAN sites.

SESSION #3: PRESENTATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY PROTECTION BOARD (EQPB)

Ms. Isumechraad K. Ngirairikl, Environmental Outreach Officer, EQPB, gave a PowerPoint presentation of the tasks and responsibilities of EQPB and its working partnership to the Bureau of Arts and Culture. Environmental Quality Protection Act, Title 24 of the Palau National Code stated that EQPB is to be tasked and responsible for the protection and proper conservation of quality of the environment and its resources so that sound and sustainable economic and social development proceeds in a manner that will not jeopardize Palau's future possibilities or opportunities. In order to carry out the policy set forth in the 24PNC, it is the continuing responsibility of the national government to use all practicable means, consistent with other essential considerations of national policy, to improve and coordinate governmental plans, functions, programs, and resources to the end that the inhabitants of the Republic may: Preserve important historical, cultural and natural aspects of our Palauan heritage, and maintain, wherever possible, an environment which supports diversity and variety of individual choice. EQPB permit application process;
Duly accomplished Application Form
Land Use Right (Certificate of Ownership, Lease Agreement)
Site Development Plan for the septic tank and leach field including percolation test result
Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan (ESCP)
Historical Clearance from Bureau of Arts & Culture
Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) Clearance from Bureau of Public Works Safety Officer

Application Fee

- A) Residential - \$20.00
- B) Commercial - \$100.00
- C) Government – No Fee

MAIN ISSUES IN THIS YEAR'S SYMPOSIUM ARE:

1. Strengthen Palauan cultural heritage by teaching our children starting from the home to the school then on to the community;
2. To strengthen Palauan language at home and in school;
3. Strengthen teachings of Palauan cultural heritage in the education level;
4. Traditional leaders, government leaders, and the community to give support to the Bureau of Arts and Culture office to preserve, protect, and promote our cultural heritage;
5. State Government to find grants and encourage state communities to contribute to the maintenance, safeguarding, and promotion of their respective state cultural and historical properties;
6. State Governments to implement and strengthen their state historic preservation act; and
7. Continue practicing our Palauan cultural heritage so that the younger generation see and follow.

Announcement: DAY 2 - Registration for Historical Site Tour Visit to *Koror State Cultural and Historical Sites at the Rock Islands* and schedule of Day 2 and boarding place of historical site tour visit were announced.

DAY 2-AUGUST 23, 2013

Field trip to visit Koror State Cultural and Historical Sites located at the Rock Islands

The purpose of having the site visit is to give the participants hands on experience of the site.

Two boats transported the participants to and back from the sites. The participants were fortunate to have Mr. Phedias Brel, Koror State Government Staff, and Mr. Apple Adelbai, Koror State Government Staff as their tour guides for the entire site visit. The participants visited 10 sites located at the Rock islands of Koror state. The 10 sites are: (1)*Btelulachang ra Ngeremdiu*; (2)*Tab Kukau* (rock arts); (3)WWII Zero Plane (*skoki*); (4)*Oimaderuul* (taro patch at the rock island); (5)*Toi ra Omedokel* (burial cave); (6)*Balang* (Yapese Stone Money) at Ulong Rock Island; (7)Captain Wilson Monument; (8)recently found cave at Ulong; (9)*Euatel* at Ulong (fortress); and (10)*Olumel ra Ulong* (water well).

Lunch was held at the Ulong Rock Island.

After lunch an Evaluation Forms were distributed to all participants. The evaluation forms were filled out by all participants on Day 2 of the Symposium. The results were as follows:

EVALUATION

Question #1: Did you like the Presentations? Were the presentations clear and precise? All agreed. Majority agreed.

Question #2: Does the symposium hold any importance or value to continue every year? All agreed. Some commented that it must and have importance to hold it every year at different state.

Rating from a scale of 1 to 10 with 10 being the highest:

Venue: Majority rated 10 (excellent).

Refreshments: Majority rated 8 (good).

Transportation: Rated above average.

Program: Rated good.

Field Trip: Rated excellent.

SHARING SESSION

Master of Ceremony Director Melson Miko, Bureau of Youth, Sports & Recreation summarized what was discussed and the concerned raised in the first day of the symposium. The first and primary concern raised during the first day of the symposium is how to transfer our heritage to our children and the next generation. We must all work together to be able for our heritage to be strengthen. Strongly agrees that we must transfer our heritage to our children and the next generation.

CLOSING CEREMONY

Closing Remarks:

Acting Director Ms. Sunny Ngirmang closed the ceremony by thanking Koror State government for co-hosting this year symposium. She stressed out that this symposium is one of the important projects for the BAC for it helps the BAC to gather comments, recommendation, and concerns of the state stakeholders and key partners to be able for the BAC better their workplan. In addition, to bring together

all stakeholders and key agencies partners to discuss ways to preserve, protect, and promote our precious cultural and historical heritage so that it won't be lost and be passed on to the next generation.

Benediction:

Mr. Andrew Shiro, Chairman, Palau Historical & Cultural Advisory Board closed the symposium with a prayer.

CONCLUSION

The symposium accomplished its objectives by getting input and commitment from key partners in the community, from the top Government officials and traditional leaders to service providers. The Society of Historians actively participated and were present on day 1 only for discussion. They wanted to contribute for the benefit of our future generations. Their valuable contributions and continued support were and will be forever cherished by people of all ages and nationalities. The Society of Historians with traditional ranks in their respective states and deep knowledge in our customs, traditions, and histories of Palau, provide a unique and invaluable advantage for the Bureau. The Palau Historical and Cultural Advisory Board were also present and actively participated during those two days. The Bureau is blessed to have support from both the Historians and the Advisory Board to provide the Bureau the credentials it needs to perform its duties properly. However, without the valuable input from the rest of the participants representing various government, non-government entities, and the Koror State community, the symposium would not have been a complete success. It requires the entire community and each member to contribute to the preservation, protection, and promotion of the tangible and intangible cultural and historical properties of Palau.

APPENDICES

1. Appendix A – Symposium Program
2. Appendix B – Copy of PowerPoint Presentations
3. Appendix C – List of Participants
4. Appendix D – Evaluation Form