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BAC Welcomes New Director

On April 13, 2006 Mr. Roland Merar was hired as the new Director of the Bureau of Arts & Culture. Mr. Merar is young, energetic, attentive and eager to preserve, conserve and protect the Palauan Cultural Heritage for the future generations. The BAC Staff welcomes the new Director.



New Director Roland Merar

Violation of Lagoon Monument

A historic event took place in Palau in May 2006 when the Palau Attorney General's office brought charge against the "Lionwind" and two members of its crew for looting of four Japanese vessels including Amatsu, Choyu, Ryuku and Maru that were sunk in Palau water during WWII. The owners of Lionwind settled a lawsuit with Palau

Attorney General's office and two members of crew were found guilty and fined and imprisoned. The sunken vessels and aircrafts regardless of nationalities are par of Palau Lagoon Monuments and are protected under the Palau Lagoon Monuments Act (Title 19, Chapter 3 of Palau National Code).



Artifact that was taken from the vessel

UNITAR Training



Resources managers from the WH Asian office, coming from diverse backgrounds from across the natural and cultural sciences, they provided assistance and presented papers during the workshop

The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), Hiroshima Office for Asia and the Pacific 2006 workshop training was designed to introduce participants to basic knowledge, information and updates on the World Heritage programs and current topics regarding heritage management. Rita Olsudong, National Archaeologist from the Bureau of Arts and Cul-



Participants at Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima

ture, Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs, and 50 other participants, resource managers and staff from 26 countries of Asia, Australia, Europe and

North America participated in the training. The training's special focus was on intangible heritage values, the analysis of leading policies and strategies and their successes and failure, the explanation of legal and political planning and techniques, the discussion of case studies, practical exercises and enhancement of long term learning and exchange. Part of the workshop included two study tours to World Heritage sites in Hiroshima, the A-Bomb Dome and the Itsukushima Shinto Shrine to provide additional case studies and learning opportunities.



The practical exercises formed an important part of the workshop, employing case-study analysis by working teams. Five teams were established, each assisted by a resource person. Teams were

given approximately one day to formulate a nomination document of a given real (existing) site and to present it in the plenary. A variety of learning and training methodology including "Peer Review" as designed by UNITAR were included in the exercise. Team 1 nominated a site in

Palau namely - Imeong, Palau
Resource person: Kumiko YONEDA
Data provider : Rita OLSUDONG
1. Zhen-peng LI (China) 2. Sitorus TAMEN (Indonesia) 3. Ronasit MANEESAI (Thailand) 4. Dien The NONG (Vietnam) 5. Arthur GANUBELLA (Papua New Guinea)



A-Bomb, Hiroshima, Japan, is one of the sites listed in the World Heritage



Itsukushima Shrine on Miyajima Island, in Japan, is one of the sites listed in World Heritage Li

Ms. Olsudong attends meetings at Majuro

From January 13-21, 2006. Ms. Rita Olsudong, Palau National Archaeologist, went to Majuro, Marshall Islands to attend three meetings: The Micronesian Endowment for Historic Preservation Office's (MEHP) annual consultation of Board Members, the Pacific Preservation Symposium and the Freely Associated State of Micronesia (FAS) annual consultation meeting with the

National Park Service. The Pacific Preservation Symposium focused on "Resources, Education and Management of Historic properties. "Ms. Olsudong gave a presentation entitled " Heritage and Communities" focusing on the effort to solicit assistance from local communities in protecting, preserving and managing cultural heritage in Palau. The

annual consultation between the (FAS) and the National Park Service meeting was for each Historic Preservation Office in the FAS to present their FY'04-05 project to discuss with NPS any challenges in implementing their programs and if needed to request the NPS assistance. Ms. Olsudong presented the Palau HPO programs.

Ms. Besebes attends Historical Preservation Conference at Oakland

On March 8, 2006 Ms. Meked Besebes departed from Palau to attend a meeting at Oakland, California and a conference at Washington D.C Maryland, U.S.A. The purpose of the meeting at Oakland was to attend an annual National Conference of the State Historical

Preservation Office. In addition, it was an opportunity for the Palau Historical Preservation Office to report to the National Park Service main office about its ongoing projects and programs in Palau. Ms. Besebes was able to report project accomplishments for 2005 as

well as inform about upcoming projects in 2006. Ms. Besebes gave presentations at Oakland as well as Maryland about project accomplishments relating to the HPO's 2005 efforts. This trip, undertaken annually, is significant because it continually strengthens the close relationship between US National Park Service and the Bureau of Arts & Culture/ Palau Historical Preservation Office.

Society of Historian First Session

The Society of Historians held its first bi-annual session for 2006 on May 8-12, 2006. The topic for this year's booklet is "*Osisechakl er a Rengalk er a Irechar*" (Traditional Educational System of Palau). All sixteen members of the Palau Society of Historians, representing

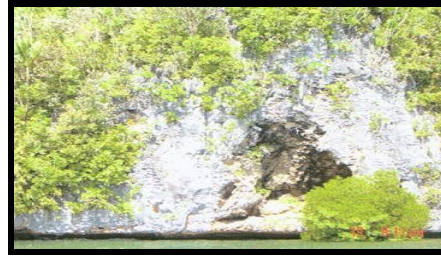
the sixteen states of Palau were able to attend this first session. Airai State had newly appointed Historian, Rebekah Takeo Ngirmekur. During this first session, Ms. Lynda Tellames, Staff Historian gave an overview over a chapter in *Rechuodel* Volume I on *Osisechakl er a Rengalk er*

a Irechar. The Historians were able to share their views and provide more detailed information regarding this topic. The BAC Staff would like to welcome the new Historian.

Li er a Itemruchel Site Restoration

This year the annual site restoration and development project was awarded to Airai State to restore li er a Itemruchel. On May 31, 2006 there was an opening ceremony for the site restoration project at Ngersung Dock, Airai State. li er a Itemruchel is located on one of the rock islands

of Airai State. Workers had to be transported to



li er a Itemruchel

the site by boat. Work

commenced after the opening ceremony, and the Palau Registrar monitored the site restoration project on regular basis. The young men of Ngerusar village, the “Ngara Kla-sekl” were involved in the site restoration project.

Archaeology Survey at Ngaraard State

The Survey and Inventory section of the Bureau of Arts and Culture conducted its Special Project of the short-term plan to conduct and inventory of cultural and historical properties of Ngaraard State as mandated under Title 19, Chapter I of Palau National Code. The objective of the fieldwork was to verify presence the and/or absence of histori-

cal and cultural properties in areas of Ngaraard state not surveyed in the 2000 survey. Before the fieldwork, the BAC staff met with Madrengebuked Thomas Remengesau, Governor Laurentino Ulechong and legislators of Ngaraard state to discuss the fieldwork. Governor Ulechong, Madrengebuked and Speaker Isaac Bai

made a public announcement to the people of Ngaraard asking for assistance and support for the BAC,s project. The project was conducted in three Phases: Phase I Archival research, Phase II Fieldwork and Phase III Compilation of the report. The field work was conducted between February 28 and June 30, 2006 and was carried-out by the BAC National Archaeologist and two staff members with one assistant from Ngaraard state, Naito Soaladaob.



Erroflyn Kloulchad standing beside Titulich, stone face monolith in Ngerdermang traditional village



Naito Soaladaob discussing the Ngaraard cultural landscape at Lmetmelasech water dam



Stone path in Elab traditional village

Presentation at Ngaraard Elementary



Mr. Melson Miko giving a presentation at Ngaraard Elementary School

On April 12, 2006 the staff of the Bureau of Arts & Culture (BAC) presented a lec-

ture to the 7 & 8 graders of Ngaraard Elementary School. The presentation dealt with the roles and responsibilities of the BAC. This outreach program was designed to educate the students about the importance of preserving and protecting our cultural resources. Ms. Loyola Darius of Public Education started the presentation by giving a brief background information

about the Bureau. Ms. Rita Olsudong presented data on the cultural sites and other findings made by the Archaeology/ Survey Team. Mr. Melson Miko concluded our presentation by emphasizing the importance of the collection of oral history and ethnography, and also again the importance of protecting and preserving our cultural heritage for present and future generation.

PMA fieldtrip to Ngiwal, Ngaraard and Ngarchelong

On April 28, 2006 Mr. Melson Miko and Ms. Loyola Darius accompanied Freshmen of the Palau Mission Academy to several sites in Babeldaob. Ngiwal state was the first stop, and Mr. Miko led the tour to several sites in Ngiwal. The first site we visited was the resting place

for the gods, then we went to visit the Basket of louel“ *Sualel a louel*”. We continue our tour to a well which had a lid with a turtle carving. This coral lid was unique because of these carvings. After visiting the sites at Ngiwal, we went to *Ngerdok* (Fountain of Youth) at

Ngaraard State, while continuing our tour to Ngarchelong state. At Ngarchelong we were able to visit *Badrulchau* (Stone face Monolith). After we visited the stone monolith we went to see the stone coffin at the very tip of Ngarchelong State, Ollei. Finally we all went to the Ollei port to have lunch and the students had the chance to swim.

Farewell to Ms. Meked Besebes

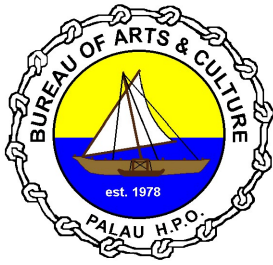
On May 14, 2006 the BAC staff coordinated a farewell luncheon for Ms. Meked Besebes. Ms. Besebes worked for the Bureau for more than two years. Due to her future goals and plans she now bids farewell to the

Bureau of Arts and Culture and embarks on her future career path. Ms. Besebes was the assistant Ethnographer for the Oral History/ Ethnography section. Ms. Besebes contributions to the Bureau of Arts and Culture

are appreciated. The BAC Staff want to express their gratitude to Ms. Besebes and also wishes her the best for her future goals and plans.



Ms. Besebes and Mr. Melson Miko conducting interviews during a Historian's session



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

Mr. Emesiochel Attends Training at Kolonia, Pohnpei

In January 2006, Calvin T. Emesiochel, an Archaeological Surveyor/Historic Preservation Specialist from the Survey and Inventory Section of the Bureau of Arts and Culture attended a training in Kolonia, Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia on "Documentation, Investigation, Analysis, and Treatment of a Cultural Resource Site (both Cultural Landscape and Concrete Conservation): the Japanese Agriculture Station in the Pohnpei

Botanical Garden". The training took place from January 23 – 27, 2006 with a focus on survey and inventory, evaluation, documentation, and analysis of sites. Techniques of problem investigation and so-

lutions for making recommendation based upon the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation Sites, Archaeology, and Cultural Landscapes were discussed.. The training was made possible by the Pacific West Region of the National Park Services and the Pohnpei Department of Land and Natural Resources, who received a grant from the NPS National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT).



Participants of the training