



IBETEL AKLEBELAU

Quarterly Newsletter

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BAC Holds 10th Annual Historic Preservation Symposium (*Theme: Selchedekl el Dikese*)



The Bureau of Arts and Culture/Palau Historic Preservation Office once again held its annual Historic Preservation Symposium on November 12 & 13, 2014 at Koror State Assembly Hall with the theme “Selchedekl el Dikese” (Retaining Our Valuable Cultural Heritage). The two days symposium were dedicated to guest speakers, panelist and group work with 56 participants. Participants of the two-day symposium represented different government and non-government agencies. The four main objective of the symposium are: (1) To build a closer working relationship with our partner agencies in protecting and preserving Palau’s historical and cultural resources; (2) To strengthen the on-going dialogue and coordination among all partners in order to improve our efforts in carrying out our responsibilities; (3) To learn more about each other’s roles and their responsibilities, requirements and concepts; (4) and To enhance the education of the targeted partners in order to improve the general understanding of the importance and value of the Historic Preservation Program and its concepts. The symposium accomplished its objectives by getting the inputs and commitments from key partners in the community from the top Government officials and Traditional Leaders to the service providers.



Olechotel Belau Fair and United Nations Day 2014

The annual Olechotel Belau Fair was held on October 24, 2014. Theme for this year was “Chellingsel a Belau” (Pristine Palau). This cultural event showcased Palau’s rich and unique culture and celebrated United Nations Day. States participated by showcasing vibrant display and sales of arts and crafts, sale of foods and drinks, display and sale of indigenous and imported crops and plants, and performed the traditional and contemporary dances.



Ngiwal State Float in the OBF 2014 Parade/Float

Mlechei

This is a story of a very long time ago when the Palauan still believed in gods very strongly. They depended on these gods when they wanted something done. Some of the things these gods did were witnessed by believers. These gods were all over Palau. The Palauans made these gods accustomed to the things they did. They offered the gods betelnuts (sic) and food. So it seemed that they were part of their families. Also, there was intermarriage between the Palauans and their gods. The results of their marriages were actually seen at that time. Also, I have been hearing such stories as well from many rubaks (elder males) in Palau. Stories were told and songs were sang about these things that would prove that such things really happened in Ngetbong, a small village in Ngardmau state. There was once in this village a woman by the name of Toched, but she was commonly called Mlechei, which was her title. This woman was a medium of a god. Her god soon married her. They were married for a long time when Mlechei became pregnant. After the proper number of months she delivered a baby boy. She named the boy Ulecherungel. They lived for a long time and the boy found his maturity. At about this time Mlechei fell in love with Elibiong. They used to hide themselves from Mlechei's husband to sleep together. Even though they were hiding themselves, the god already knew about their love affair. At night the god used to scold Mlechei. He said, "Remember, Ulecherungel is now a grown up child. It would not be right for him to hear us arguing." Then Mlechei kept denying that she was Elibiong's girlfriend. So Uchel the god said, "Don't talk back when we speak to you. Just listen and do things as you are told." Still Mlechei did not give in to the accusation. One day Mlechei and Elibiong were sleeping together on a dump near the house of Lmii. While they were thus engaged, Uchel who was Mlechei's husband revealed himself deliberately to Mlechei and her lover and left. *Continue on page 4: Mlechei*

PCC Career EXPO 2014



Ms. Filly Carabit, Historic Preservation Officer, BAC attending the PCC Career EXPO 2014

BAC staff Ms. Filly Carabit, Historic Preservation Officer, participated in the 2nd Annual Palau Community College (PCC) Career Expo at PCC Dining Hall on October 30, 2014. The PCC career Expo was to orient PCC with various career opportunities and to help them identify their future career interests. The career expo included information booths and presentations. BAC attended to raise the awareness of BAC mission and different professional skills involved in cultural and historic management.

Historic Clearance Permitted in Year 2014

During the period of January - December 2014, the BAC reviewed and concurred a total of three hundred seventy-one (371) Historical Clearance. Out of the 371, 251 were regular permit, 116 were minor permit, 1 with MOA, and 3 section 106 permit. These development projects included constructions of new access roads, improvement of existing access roads, building new residences, commercial projects, clearing projects, renovation of existing buildings, home extensions, earthmoving project, dredging projects, grading and leveling projects.

As mandated by law, the Bureau must review and determine the effects of any public and/or private development projects to insure historical and cultural resources are protected and preserved. Before any development/project begins, a Historic Clearance Permit must be obtained from the Bureau of Arts and Culture. Applications for Historic Clearance permits comes with EQPB permit when you applied for EQPB permit. Please contact the BAC office for more information about this permit process.

Omesodel a Ikei el Bek el Cheldukl el Bad

ODESONGEL

A odesongel a cheldukl el bad el ngara ngelong ra obliil el ikei el mla mungakl el blai ra telungalek ma kebliil. Sei el tkul a odesongel el bedul a blai a bekord el ngar ngii a bita el chim el delongelel. E sei el delongelel el mera blai a domekedong er ngii el kmo, delkatk, el dirrek el cheldukl el bad el ngariou ra odesongel. A odesongel a dirrek el ua klemcheklel a blai el ngar ngii a uchul a orengodel ma rsel a orengodel er ngii. A klemengetel a odesongel a diuai a klemengetel a blai, ea tengel a ngara erung e mo ra edei el reongel. Ng dirrek el ngar ngii a ledes el cheldukl el bad el bekord el bitang el chim a tengel el ngara mo bedul a rsel orengodel ra odesongel ma lechub eng blai, e melemolem el me tuobed ra chades. A ikang a oumesingd el mla er ngii ra ikei el meteet el blai ra ngaramong. Ng dirrek el ngar ngii a bebil ra obliil el cheldukl el keldidai el diaua kldidiul a delkatk ra teliang el kliu ra mo bedul a uchul orengodel el mo ieuekl ra rebai el mo ra teliang el kliu ra mo bedul a rsel orengode, ea ikei a diak el telkib er odesongel e le ng ileakl, el chelim a ngklel. Ea tengel a bekord ngar bitang el chim. A klou el belkul a odesongel me ng ngar ngii ra ikei el mla medung el obliil a olekull, el debellir a re chad er sei el blai ma lechub e ng kebliil.

Ngar ngii a bebil er a odesongel el dedul kmo ng oubllallang, e le cheldeklel a telkib el ngoded ra bek el odesongel e le ng ngar ngii a ta ra cheldukl el kekeriei ra odesongel el uaia el chisisel tia el klou el odesongel el bekord telmedeu a kldidiul. A ikang a diak el be-took el odesongel ra chelsel Belau.

OLBED

A olbed a di uaia teletelel ma cheldeklel a odesonge, eng di diak el olkull. Me ng blechoel el cheldeklel a bai ma diangel, ma bebil ra obliil el diak el dekull a re chad er ngii.

ILIUD

A iliud a mekekerei el cheldukl el blechoel el cheldukl ra btelul a chang ma taoch ma tkul a doing. A ikang a kakerous a meklungel el ngar ngii a meklou ma mekekerei, e ng di diak bo el ua meklungel a odesongel. Ng blechoel el dertedobech a meklungel ra odesongel. A ikang el iliud a ngar ngii a olengrull ra rubak ma di olen-grull ra re di chad. A ikei el iliud el olengrull ra rubak a blechoel el ngar ngii a btangch er ngii el ua el olechotel. A bai ra rubak a ngar ngii a iliud el ngar teliang el mo bedul a medal a bai, el bekord el ngar edei el mo ra eim el reongel a cherridel el me ra bai, el ngar ngii a kleuang el btang er ngii el kingellir ar kebekuul. A iliud a

belkul a kmo kingall el de dengchokl el iluodel a de ngarngii.

BTANGCH

A btangch a ngellitel el ungil a blebelel el bad el blechoel el meues ra olbed ra bai ma iliud ra rubak ma ongkerongel ra mekemad. A ikang a sisellir a rubak ma lechub e te di chad a bo el kiei. A bebil ra btangch a meklou el ua telongklel a ta el chad a le dechor, e delsachel el ouk-likm el ko ra dilukai el blechoel el ngara ikei el chechedaol el obliil ma chutem. Ng dirrek el ngar ngii a meklou el btangch el diak el ouklikm el meues ra kmeed ra taoch ma bebil ra chutem el nar ngii a ngklel el ngesechel a cherechar ra beluu. Meng uaisei, eng di ikei el tangch el nga ra iliud ra bai a me-kull dil diak el sisal ra gnii di el chad.

Current Members of the Society of Historians

The members of the Society of Historians consist of 16 members representing 16 states of Palau, selected by the Governor of each states and certified by the President of the Republic of Palau. The current members of the Society of Historians as of December 12, 2014 are as follows.

- (1) Dirraitierir Theodosia F. Blailes, Chairperson (Angaur State)
- (2) Ochob Rachel Becheserrak, Vice-Chair (Koror State)
- (3) Dirrengichel Sariang Timulch, member (Aimeliik State)
- (4) Uchelrutchei Wataru Elbelau, member (Ngeremlengui State)
- (5) Rechiuang Demei Otobed, member (Ngatpang State)
- (6) Floriano Felix, member (Ngaraard State)
- (7) Adelbairechbai Eyos Ruluked, member (Kayangel State)
- (8) Rteruich Katsushi Skang, member (Ngarchelong State)
- (9) Rechemang Gabino Llecholech, member (Ngiwal State)
- (10) Renguul Peter Elechuus, member (Melekeok State)
- (11) Rechedebechei Ananias Bultedaob, member (Ngchesar State)
- (12) Rebechall Takeo Ngirmekur, member (Airai State)
- (13) Smau Amalei Ngirngesang, member (Peleliu State)
- (14) Domiciano Andrew, member (Hatohebei State)
- (15) Laura Ierago, member (Sonsorol State)
- (16) Ngardmau State (VACANT)

As the Historians are respected repositories of Palauan history and traditions, we invite members of the public who wish to do so to meet with these elders during their sessions if they have questions that they would like to raise.

Continued on page 2: Mlechei

His intention of revealing himself was to show his wife that he already knew about his wife's love affair with Elibiong. From then on Mlechei could no longer deny that she was Elibiong's girlfriend. During this time Ngaraard and Ngardmau were one municipality. Their bond of friendship was very strong.

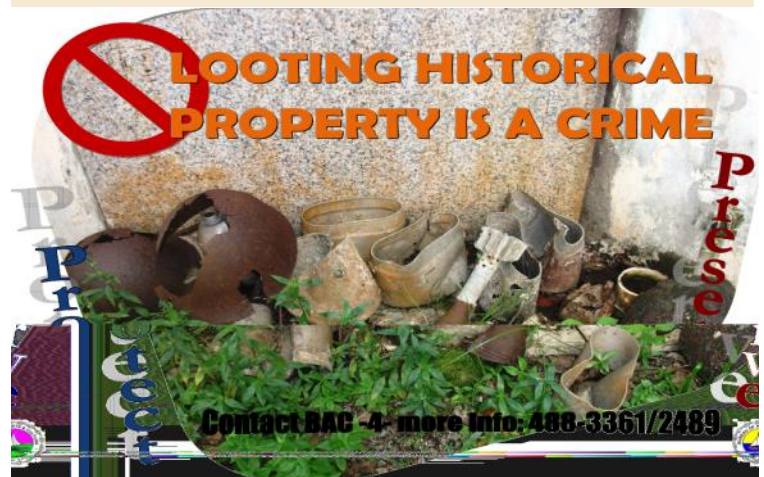
So when Ngardmau was invaded and taken by the warriors of Koror, people of Urdmau at the other end of Ngardmau under the rule of Beouch, escaped to Ngaraard. But people of Ngetbong under the rule of (Arbedul) did not go to Ngaraard right away but went later. Ngetbong is located at the other end of Ngardmau opposite to Urdmau.

Explanation: It was a Palauan custom that if a village or a municipality was invaded, the chief of that place may pay (a certain amount of) money to the invaders. In return the invaders would go to their home village and send a group of men to go to the invaded place and rebuild everything that was destroyed during the war. If the chief would not pay the invaders this money, the invaders would have to take the village or municipality as their home island. And so when Ngardmau was invaded, Beouch who ruled the other end of Ngardmau called (Urdmau), escaped to Ngaraard. But (Arbedul) who ruled the other end did not. He was willing to pay the warrior of Koror some money so that their village would not be taken by them.

Source: Stories with Moral Lessons booklet, Society of Historians publication series

Society of Historians New Publication Completed

The Society of Historians completes work on new publication titled "Traditional Place Names of Palau: From Ridge to Reef". Copies will be disseminate to all concern. The Historians produce their booklets with the assistance of the Bureau of Arts and Culture, and use funding provided by the U.S. National Park Service Historic Preservation Fund Grant. This booklet, published in Palauan and English, is the 18th series in an ongoing series of publications on traditional Palauan culture.



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 Chapter 1 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 lbetel a Cherechar)

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