



IBETELAKLEBELAU

Quarterly Newsletter

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Keeping up with the momentum of change: \$25,000 to promote cultural practices in Palau!



Photo Caption: MCCA Minister Baklai Temengil (far left) with Palau Society of Historians. President Tommy Remengesau Jr. handing \$25,000 check to Palau Society of Historians Chairperson Diraiterir Theodosia Belailles.

Changes come in different forms and we must be prepared for them, this was a sentiment echoed in a recent meeting between President Tommy Remengesau Jr., MCCA Minister Baklai Temengil, Palau Society of Historians, Krämers Local Reviewers Committee, and staff of Bureau of Arts and Culture which took place on January 20, 2015. The colors of our culture continue to be vibrant on this island despite the influx of different people from distance land. We must realize that our culture separates us from the masses and it needs to be one of our priorities in terms of heritage management. The sense of cultural loss can be seen among many Palauan youth who choose not to use Palauan language for everyday conversation nor understand basic Palauan cultural principles. Based on these observations the Palau Society of Historians petitioned President Remengesau for financial assistance to launch an outreach campaign promoting Palau fundamental cultural principles. Palau Society of Historians together with staff of Bureau of Arts and Culture Oral History Section has

worked over the years to document and produce educational materials promoting Palau culture and life ways in schools. This has not been an easy task because as a living culture there are different interpretations and variation of a certain aspect within our cultural norms. As a result, President Remengesau presented a check for \$25,000 to the Palau Society of Historians and Bureau of Arts and Culture to implement this project which will entail radio talk show, TV appearance, meeting traditional leaders, teachers, and programs targeting the youth. The office of MCCA Minister Baklai Temengil, Palau Society of Historians, and Bureau of Arts and Culture would like to recognize and thank President Remengesau for his vision and financial assistance on building a strong nation deeply rooted on its cultural foundation.

Contributed by: Meked Besebes, Ethnographer, BAC

Kramer Translation Committee Receives \$26,000 From UNESCO



On March 12, 2015 Krämer Ethnography Translation Committee (KETC) receives additional assistance toward publication of Kramer English translated volumes. Minister of Education Sinton Soalablai, and other members of UNESCO Palau National Commission presented a \$26,000 check to Chairperson Faustina K. Rehuher-Marugg and members of the KETC as part of UNESCO's member state Project Programme (PP). KETC extends its appreciation to the Office of the President, Olbiil er a Kelulau, German Government, and UNESCO Palau National Commission for providing financial assistance toward the translation and publication of the

English translation of volumes produced by the South Seas Expedition in 1908 to 1910.

BAC Held Radio Talk Show



The Bureau of Arts and Culture/Palau Historic Preservation Office held a live radio talk show at Eco-Paradise FM Radio on January 19, 2015. The radio talk show was part of the on-going effort to provide public awareness about Palauan cultures and historical treasures. Additionally, the radio talk show is part of Bureau's yearly series of events that both informs the public and explains to them, its tasks, projects, and responsibilities. This also was an opportunity for the Bureau to hear and collect public concerns, comments, and suggestions for protecting and preserving Palau's cultural and historical treasures.

The Bureau welcomes the public's written comments and suggestions regarding the protection and preservation of our cultural heritage. They can be submitted to the BAC office located in Civic Center Building at Ngerbeched, Koror.

BAC Display in the PCC Career Week



G.B. Harris Elementary School Students Group Visiting the Booth

Bureau of Arts and Culture (BAC) Staff Ms. Filly Carabit, Historic Preservation Officer attended a Palau Community College (PCC) Career and Technical Awareness Week on March 18, 2015. BAC had an opportunity to join with the Liberal Arts program booth, which offers various introductory courses such as cultural anthropology and archaeology. BAC participated and assisted by providing brochures and publications and presenting the duties/tasks of BAC for students to grasp the value of cultural anthropological and archaeological work.

Book on Traditional Knowledge and Wisdom Launched



A new publication that compiles informative articles on traditional knowledge from Palau, Fiji, FSM, Tonga, PNG and Vanuatu under five themes: world views, relationships and social cohesion, harvest and landscapes, voyaging and seascapes, art and technology was launched at a ceremony held at the Palau Community College Assembly on Friday, March 20, 2015. The book “Traditional Knowledge and Wisdom: Themes from the Pacific Islands” was launched to a group that includes the members of the society of historians, traditional leaders rep, school principals, Palau Visitors Authority, Kramer’s translation Committee, and the book’s informants. Palau’s selected topic with each of the thematic areas includes

1. Worldview: Preserving Traditional Place Names in Palau;
 2. Relationship and Social Cohesion: Pregnancies and Birth Practices in Palau;
 3. Harvest and Landscapes: Mesei Taro Fields Landscapes in Palau;
 4. Voyaging and Seascapes: Palau Knowledge of the Seas;
 5. Art and Technology: Palauan Bai (meeting house) Parts and Descriptions as a Pictorial Representation of Palau.
- The book is an outcome of the two years joint project, which has recently been released by the intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (ICHCAP), Category II Centre in Republic of Korea.

ICHCAP is a UNESCO affiliated institute which is adding this new publication to the growing literature on indigenous Knowledge and Epistemology in the Pacific. Published within the framework of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) Safeguarding Programme in the Pacific, the publication sheds light on unique cultural practices and expressions of the indigenous peoples in the Pacific that have supported the strength of communities and contributed to unifying islands in the region. Ms. Meked Besebes of the Bureau of Arts and Culture was a member of the editorial board.

Contributed by: Meked Besebes, Ethnographer, BAC

BAC Present its Work to Ngatpang State Leaders and Community



On February 24, 2015 Bureau of Arts and Culture Director, Sunny Ngirmang and Deputy HPO, Calvin Eme-siochel and staff travelled to Ngatpang State for community meeting with Ngatpang State leaders and community members. The community meeting was held to discuss and solicit comments/recommendations for the preservation and protection of Palau’s cultural and historical heritage.

The BAC discussed ongoing projects such as (1) BAC 5 Year Historic Preservation Plan Phase I and II; and (2) Historic Properties Inventory System Assessment Phase I and II. In addition, the Archaeological Survey and Inventory of Ngatpang State Interior.

The Bureau of Arts and Culture/Palau Historic Preservation Office receives annually Historic Preservation Fund Grants from the U.S. Department of the Interior, National

Park Service, to implement activities related to the identification, evaluation, registration, treatment, and protection of historic and archaeological resources.

Bureau of Arts and Culture welcome public and stakeholder comments on the Historic Preservation Fund Annual Grant Program. Comments/recommendations can be submitted to Bureau of Arts and Culture/Palau Historic Preservation Office located at Civic Center Building next to Asahi Baseball Field, Koror or Email to bac_reg@palaunet.com or bac_arch@palaunet.com or fax to 488-3594.

BAC Mourns Passing Away of Aimeliik Historian



A great loss was felt among the Society of Historians for the passing away of one of its members, *Diraii Yosko Ngiraturerang*. She represented Aimeliik State as a member of the Society.

Diraii served as a Chairperson of the Palau Society of Historians from 1978 to 2014. As a Chairperson of the Society she was knowledgeable in the Aimeliik State culture and history and she was proclaimed a Living National Treasure of the Republic of Palau according to the proclamation by the Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs.

The Society of Historians and BAC, along with his family, relatives, his clan, and Aimeliik State share the loss and sorrow for this wonderful mother, grandmother, sister, aunty, and colleague.

BAC Present in Youth Conference



Upon request from the Micronesian Youth Services Network (MYSN), Vice President Mr. Kenny Reklai, the Bureau of Arts and Culture staff Ms. Maked Besebes, Cultural Ethnographer gave a presentation on Respect to the youth during their 11th Annual Conference at Ngarachamayong Cultural Center. This is an annual conference for youth, service providers, policy makers, political leaders and youth advocates from all over Micronesia to gather and network with one another to share ideas to improve youth programs, seek solutions to the issues youth faces and develop programs to assist the needs of the community.

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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