



IBETELAKLEBELAU

Quarterly Newsletter

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BAC Basic Ethnography Training at Ebiil Camp & Visit to Ollei Pottery Shop & Ngeremlengui Center



Written by Omtilou Iyar, BAC Oral History WIA Summer Intern

On June 19 2014 the Bureau of Arts and Culture Ethnographer, Meked Besebes, and three WIA students including myself went on a fieldtrip to the Ebiil Camp Site in Ollei-Ngarchelong and the Pottery Center in Ngeremlengui. As we reached our destination at Ollei-Ngarchelong, we met up with the counselors of Camp Ebiil and introduced ourselves to each other. For the past 10 years Ebiil Society has been hosting this camp to connect young Palauans with their cultural and natural heritage. Back in 2010 I was a participant at Ebiil Camp and it was so much fun. There were many activities and fieldtrips to different places where we learned the importance of our culture and natural resources. This was a good experience because we made new friends and also got to learn how to conserve our environment.

After a brief presentation about Basic Ethnography, we got some hands on training on interviewing and participant observation. We formed two groups to survey houses in Ollei. Our group interviewed Helene Selei Moros a potter from Ollei. We asked questions regarding their family name, what state they come from, where they currently live and others that were listed on our survey sheet. The other group mapped out houses surveying contemporary and traditional structures. Lastly, each group made a presentation on a short exercise. Everyone had a great time and before leaving we

posed for a group photo and said farewell.

Next, we buckled up to visit the Pottery Center in Ngeremlengui. We finally arrived and got to see the surroundings of Ngeremlengui. Afterwards we entered the Pottery Center and saw the potters make final touch ups on some of their items before putting them into the electric kiln. There were many beautiful pottery displays made by the Ngeremlengui Pottery Center. We all had a great time together and enjoyed seeing all the wonderful displays. Lastly, we got into a group photo, said our farewells and headed back to Koror. This trip was memorable as it was the first time for some of us to go to Ngarchelong and Ngeremlengui.

Second Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on Underwater Cultural Heritage



The Second Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on Underwater Cultural Heritage (www.apconf.org) was held from 12-16 May 2014 in Honolulu, Hawai'i. Bureau of Arts & Culture staff Ms. Sunny Ngirmang (Director) and Mr. Calvin Emesiochel (Deputy HPO) attended on behalf of the office and the Ministry of Community & Cultural Affairs.

The conference was hosted by the University of Hawai'i Marine Option
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BAC Mourns Passing Away of Ngardmau Historian and Former Ngarchelong Historian



Ngirkebai Aichi Kumangai,
Ngardmau Historian

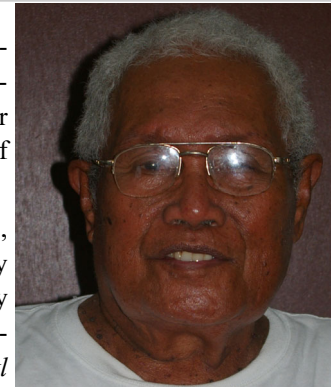
A great loss was felt among the Society of Historians for the passing away of two of its members, *Ngirkebai Aichi Kumangai* represented Ngardmau State and *Iechadrairikl Renguul Kloulechad* a former historian represented Ngarchelong State as members of the Society of Historians.

Ngirkebai served as a member of the Society from September 13, 2001 to May 2014. *Iechadrairikl* served as a Member of the Society from July 13, 1998, resigned on February 13, 2014 and passed away on June 14, 2014. As a members of the Society, *Ngirkebai* was knowledgeable in the Ngardmau State culture and history and *Iechadrairikl* was knowledgeable in Ngarchelong State culture and history. Therefore, they were proclaimed Living National Treasure of the Republic of Palau according to the proclamations by the Ministry of Communi-

ty and Cultural Affairs.

The Society of Historians and the Bureau of Arts and Culture under the Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs provided proclamations letter for their families.

The Society of Historians and BAC, along with their families, relatives, clans, and Ngardmau state and Ngarchelong State share the loss and sorrow for these wonderful father, grandfather, brother, uncle, and colleague.



Iechadrairikl Renguul
Kloulechad, Ngarchelong
Historian

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Program, and the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation. More than 139 participants from 27 countries around the world joined together to discuss common goals in underwater cultural heritage research and preservation.

BAC's participation in the Second Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on Underwater Cultural Heritage expands networks and future assistance or projects lead to the discussion of establishing an Underwater Archaeology Training Center in Palau. The study and preservation of underwater cultural heritage benefits directly from the knowledge shared by all of the conference participants, who are at the forefront of the UCH field in the Asia-Pacific region.

The following sponsors and supporters that made this important event possible: National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, Marine Option Program at the University of Hawai'i, NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, Bureau of Ocean Energy and Management, the

Wenner-Gren Foundation, UNESCO, the Ocean Foundation, University of Hawai'i, The Field Museum, Ships of Discovery, Australasian Institute for Maritime Archaeology, Inc., SEAMEO SPAFA Regional Centre for Arts and Archaeology, Maney Publishing, and the Tokyo Institute of Marine Science and Technology.

BAC Staff Attended PCS Symposium

The Bureau of Arts and Culture/Palau Historic Preservation staff Ms. Lynda Tellames, Staff Historian and Ms. Filly Carabit, Historic Preservation Specialist attended the 20th Year Anniversary Community Conservation Symposium hosted by the Palau Conservation Society (PCS) held at the Ngara Chamayong Cultural Center from June 12 to 13, 2014.

The event held presentations, exhibits, demonstrations, and poster displays from states, various agencies and organizations. The two day symposium was very informative and educational. BAC was pleased during the presentations that Koror State and Aimeliik State have included historical and cultural sites into their protected areas.

Kramer's 5-Volume Translated Work Handed Over

A ceremony was held on May 22, 2014 at Ngarachamayong Cultural Center to formally handover over Five Volumes of recently translated work of Dr. Augustine Kramer's. Dr. Augustine Kramer (1865-1941) wrote the five-volume ethnographic documentation for Professor D.G. Thilenius' Hamburg South Sea Expedition, which sailed through Micronesia to record the island peoples and their way of life during the early 1900s. His work has been long recognized as a valuable accounts of the Palauan culture and life during the early 1900s.

During the Translation Handover Ceremony His Excellency President Tommy E. Remengesau Jr. pledged a financial support to continue translation work on the remaining volumes of the South Seas Expedition (1908-1910). On June 20, 2014, Krämer Ethnography Translation Committee received a \$10,000.00 check from the Office of the President Chief of Staff, Secilil Eldebechel to continue its translation work on the remaining volumes on Sonsorol and Allgemienes. The Committee takes this opportunity to acknowledge President Remengesau and the Republic of Palau for this financial support. The English Translation of Tobi Volume has been donated to the project by Iked Foundation and Etpison Museum. Beginning July 01, 2014 the English translation of four (Volumes: 1, 2, 3, and 5) out of five volumes written by Augustin Krämer will be available for free download at Belau National Museum (www.belaunationalmuseum.net) and Etpison Museum (www.etpisonmuseum.org) websites. PDF copies of the



Photo Caption: Krämer Ethnography Translation Committee with Chief of Staff Secilil Eldebechel and BAC WIA interns: (front l-r) Annette Ngeribongel Antero; Ikelau Jamila; and Omtilou Iyar

English translations will also be available for download at PCC Library. Volume 4 is still under review and should be ready by the end of August 2015.

BAC Staff Attended ICH Annual Meeting at Pohnpei

Two Staff from the Bureau of Arts and Culture (BAC) Ms. Sunny Ngirmang (Director) and Mr. Calvin Emesiochel (Deputy HPO) attended the 2014 Sub-regional Information and Network Meeting for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Pacific Region held in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, from 7 to 9 May 2014. This year's annual meeting focused on safeguarding and promoting traditional knowledge for sustainable development in the Pacific.

Participants at the meeting included the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kingdom of Tonga, Papua New Guinea, and Samoa, as well as from the International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific region (ICHCAP) and UNESCO Office for the Pacific States (UNESCO Office in Apia).

The meeting participants expressed their sincere gratitude to the government and people of the Federated States of Micronesia for hosting the meeting and for their warm welcome and hospitality. Additionally, the meeting participants ex-

pressed their utmost gratitude to His Excellency, Nanpwutak Pikeniap, Nanmwarki en Sokehs for hosting a traditional reception in honour of the participants to the State of Pohnpei. At the same time, appreciation also was extended to ICHCAP for organizing this meeting and for its continued support in promoting intangible cultural heritage in the Pacific region.

Countries presented their country progress reports on safeguarding and promoting traditional knowledge for sustainable development, national capacity building, and identity in their respected domains.

The meeting resolved the following: Each country was tasked to identify a national coordinator who will be responsible for revising the manuscripts and submitting the revisions and a national introductory article to ICHCAP by July 15, 2014. ICHCAP will organize an editorial board that will be composed of national coordinating editors and the UNESCO Office in Apia, and the editorial board will identify an editor who is an expert in the Pacific to assist in writing the over-

all introductions.

An editorial board meeting will be held in Korea in July or August 2014 to finalize manuscript.

It has been recommended that ICHCAP focus on information and networking with the traditional and NGO sectors in the Pacific with a view of strengthening partnership with them to promote community-based ICH safeguarding for sustainable development in the Pacific.

Date and venue of the 2015 Meeting will be decided after consultation with member countries. Palau, May 2015 and Samoa, date to be announced.

BAC Staff Presented at Koror Elementary School



On April 23 & 24, 2014 upon request from the Koror Elementary School Palauan Studies Teachers Ms. Etei Kazuo (8th grade teacher), Mr. Abraham Ngiruos (7th grade teacher), and Ms. Kabidor Taima (6th grade teacher), the BAC staff Ms. Filly Carabit (Historic Preservation Officer) gave a presentation to the 5th graders and 7th and 8th graders on a topic, “Cultural and Historical Sites of Palau” and “Why Consider Cultural Heritage” respectively.

The students learned the registered sites that are listed in the historic preservation lists, and why it is important to consider cultural heritage.

This is a part of the BAC’s on-going effort to strengthen awareness and to educate the public about Palauan cultures and historical treasures.

The Bureau of Arts and Culture is very eager and willing to share information of Palau’s precious cultural and historical heritage, provided a request is made to set the schedule for staff to give a presentation.



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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