

～ 日本海難防止協会シンガポール連絡事務所発SRO news ～  
(Ref No : 22-037)

1 ミクロネシア連邦 (FSM) のパニュエロ大統領は、自由連合盟約の更新について議論をまとめるため 1 月下旬に米国を訪問、米国国家安全保障会議のカート・キャンベル・インド太平洋調整官、ジョセフ・ユン・コンパクト交渉担当大統領特使らホワイトハウス高官と会談し、最高水準の年間セクター助成金 (annual sector grant assistance)、コンパクト信託基金への資金拠出、U.S. Federal Programs & Service の継続及び直接経済支援をこれまでと同様の好条件で 2044 年度まで継続する協定条項について、ホワイトハウス側と大筋で合意した。

現在のセクター助成金は年額約 8000 万ドル、毎年議会で決定される教育助成金を含めると年間約 9300 万ドルだが、パニュエロ大統領は、年間 1 億 4,000 万ドル、20 年間で合計 28 億ドルのセクター助成金についてホワイトハウスチームから同意を得ることに成功し、これらが米国議会に要求されることとなった。同助成金は州別の交付であるため、各州の資金は劇的に増加する。さらに、大統領とホワイトハウスチームは、合意更新を前提として、2044 年度以降も好条件での直接経済援助の継続条項を協定に盛り込むことに合意した。

コンパクト信託基金については、新協定初年の 2024 年度から 2 年間、年 2 億 5000 万ドル、合計 5 億ドルの拠出について合意を得た。信託基金は 2044 年までに少なくとも総額 40 億ドル以上に達すると予想される。パヌエロ大統領は今後数週間以内に米国との基本合意書 (MOU) の署名日時を決定する。FSM は若干残る交渉事項の最終決定を 2 月から 3 月初めに充てる。

[原文](#)

(1<sup>st</sup> February 2023, Kaselehlie Press)

2 マーシャル諸島外相は、新たに署名されたコンパクト基本合意書 (MOU) について、米国議会にまだ未提出のため共有できないとしながらも、「2023 年 1 月 11 日に米国・RMI 間で署名された MOU に示された資金額は、クワジェリン (米軍基地) 関係の支払いを除けば、1 年前に米国国務省が主張した額のほぼ 4 倍、ジョセフ・ユン特使が提示した額のほぼ 2 倍となる」、「第 1 次、第 2 次協定とは異なり、今後 20 年間の (第 3 次) 援助において内容的な後退や減額はない」、「健康 (一般及び核関連)、気候変動、環境のための新たな資金が設けられ、我々の裁量で使用できる非常に大きな追加資金となる」、「MOU 締結の唯一の目的は第 3 次援助支援額を米国政府の 2024 年度予算に組み込むため」等のコメントを寄せた。

[原文](#)

(3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023, The Marshall Islands Journal)

3 ユナイテッド航空は、マーシャル諸島のマジュロとクワジェリンを結ぶホノルル・グアム間のアイランドホッパーを（2月10日から11日にかけての便から）週2便から週3便に増便する。ユナイテッド航空は、新型コロナ前は週3便運航していた。

[原文](#)

（3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023, The Marshall Islands Journal）

4 太平洋諸島フォーラム（PIF）議長であるフィジーのシティベニ・ランブカ首相は、キリバスのターネス・マーマウ大統領から PIF に戻る意思を確認する書簡を受け取ったと述べた。ランブカ首相は1週間前にキリバスを訪問しており、同国を PIF に戻すことが訪問の目的だと述べていた。マーマウ大統領は昨年7月、現事務局長の任命を含む多くの重要な決定において、PIF が公平、平等、包括性の懸念に対応できていないと主張して、PIF を脱退していた。

また、フィジー・タイムズ紙は、ランブカ政権が中国との警察研修・交流協定を終了させる予定であると報じた。

[原文](#)

（30<sup>th</sup> January 2023, Radio NZ）

[原文](#)

（30<sup>th</sup> January 2023, The Guardian）

5 太平洋諸島フォーラム（PIF）のプナ事務局長（※クック諸島の推薦者として当選）は、更に一期務めることを望んでいる。2021年のプナ事務局長就任に対し、ミクロネシア地域5カ国は就任が約束されていると信じていた同地域の候補が除外されたとして、PIF から撤退すると迫る事態となった。マーシャル諸島カブア大統領がナウル前大統領に PIF の解体を望んでいない旨の書簡を送り、キリバスのみ脱退し、マーシャル諸島の推薦者を事務局長候補として支持していた他の4カ国は脱退を撤回した経緯がある。

[原文](#)

（26<sup>th</sup> January 2023, Radio NZ）

6 ミクロネシア連邦（FSM）、ナウル及びキリバスの高官並びに豪州、日本及び米国の代表者は、3カ国を結ぶ東ミクロネシアケーブル（EMC）プロジェクトの建設推進の共同コミュニケに署名した。同プロジェクトは、キリバス、ナウル及び FSM コスラエ州に安全、確実に信頼性の高いインターネットを提供するために、米国、日本及び豪州の各政府が出資する光ファイバー海底ケーブルを敷設するものである。

[原文](#)

（1<sup>st</sup> February 2023, Island Times）

7 ニュージーランド首相にクリス・ヒプキンス氏が就任した。同首相はアーダーン政権で教育相と警察相を務めた。

## [原文](#)

(25<sup>th</sup> January 2023, PACNEWS)

8 米国は約 30 年ぶりに在ソロモン諸島大使館を再開した。米国は、中国がソロモン諸島と安全保障協定を締結し、太平洋への関心を高めていることへの懸念から、昨年初めに大使館再開の意向を表明していた。

## [原文](#)

(3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023, Radio NZ)

9 トケラウ諸島ファカオフォ環礁の子どもたちは、間もなく、太平洋海洋安全保障プログラム (Pacific Maritime Security Program) の支援を受けて建造された新しいスクールボートで通学する。船の設計・建造はトケラウ政府と豪州外務貿易省の共同出資によるもので、5 月までに運用開始予定。

## [原文](#)

(23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023, Mirage News)

10 吉川ゆうみ外務大臣政務官は、グアムの Camp Blaz 海兵隊基地の開所式で、インド太平洋の安全保障のため、日米同盟の強化が重要であり、グアムの戦略的重要性はますます高まっている、と述べた。日本政府は、同基地に 30 億ドル (約 4000 億円) を拠出している。

## [原文](#)

(26<sup>th</sup> January 2023, Kuam News)

11 Lowy Institute (※豪州のシンクタンク) Pacific Aid Map によれば、中国による太平洋地域への開発資金提供が 2016 年をピークに減少し続けている。新型コロナ対応の新規資金提供は非常に少なく、主に融資の減少により 2020 年はわずか 1 億 8700 万ドルまで落ち込んでいる。

供給面から言えば、中国は 2017 年以降、一帯一路構想の政治的及び投資的リターンの懸念の高まりにより慎重なアプローチを取っており、中国の投資家は投資リスク、政治的不確実性、プロジェクトの質の管理に苦慮している。

需要面では、太平洋地域における中国の新たなインフラ融資に対する意欲は減退している。一帯一路構想の腐敗に関する中傷も広まっており、全てのプロジェクトが順調というわけではない。トンガの返済繰り延べ、フィジーやパプアニューギニアでの建設途中で放置された荒廃した建築物、無用の長物となったバヌアツの会議場などである。

また、2 年間の国境閉鎖により財政余力は縮小し、債務の持続可能性に関する懸念が高まったことで、太平洋諸国は低コストの融資を従来のパートナーや機関に求めるようになった。

より競争の激しいインフラ融資において、中国の新規プロジェクトは不利になっており、2017 年から 2021 年の間に中国による新規融資に署名したのはソロモン諸島とバヌアツだけとなっている。

新型コロナ後、政府歳入の減少により優先順位はインフラなどの長期的な開発プロジェクトから危機対応に移ったため、主要な開発パートナーの多くは、太平洋諸国の政府予算に直接支援を行ったが、中国はしなかった。このため、中国の対外支援は規模と妥当性に欠けたものとなった。

しかし、これらの傾向は、中国が太平洋から撤退していることを意味するわけではない。中国は戦略的及び経済的な観点の両面から、リスク軽減と利益増加を図るために、関与と対象を絞っている可能性が高い。例えば、中国はソロモン諸島とキリバスに多額の援助を約束したが、どちらも2019年に外交上の承認を台湾から中国に切り替えている。中国の太平洋地域への関与が今後どのように展開されるかは不明だが、開発資金の減少は適切な投資や戦略的な機会があればすぐに元に回復する可能性がある。あるいは、中国はより低コストで影響力を発揮できる関与の形にシフトするかもしれない。

[原文](#)

(25<sup>th</sup> January 2023, The Interpreter)

12 Nautical Institute (NI) は、マラッカ・シンガポール海峡を航行する船舶や乗組員の安全性向上に活用できるデータを収集するための調査を開始した。特にシンガポール港への入出港に重点を置き、混雑する海峡を航行する際に乗組員が直面する厳しい要求を特定する。NI シンガポール支部名誉会長は、「インド洋と太平洋を結ぶ世界で最も戦略的に重要な海洋航行路であるマ・シ海峡は年10万隻を通してている。」「STRAITREP Sector 7では、すでに船舶の動きが著しく増加しており、今後さらに増加することが予想される。」と述べた。

[原文](#)

(25<sup>th</sup> January 2023, Safety 4 Sea)

# President Panuelo visits the White House, brokers top-line deal

## FSM planning to receive \$2.8 Billion over 20 years and other benefits

*FSM Information Services*

**PALIKIR, Pohnpei**—In late January 2023, His Excellency David W. Panuelo—President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)—visited Washington, D.C., and high-level officials at the U.S. White House, so as to strengthen diplomatic ties and conclude discussions and make decisions on the Nation's top-level figures for economic assistance for the next iteration or extension of the Title II provisions of the Compact of Free Association. Over several meetings with senior White House officials, including Dr. Kurt Campbell, National Security Council Coordinator for the Indo-Pacific, Ambassador Joseph Y. Yun, Special

Presidential Envoy for Compact Negotiations, and Ambassador Carmen G. Cantor, Assistant Secretary for Insular & International Affairs, President Panuelo presented the FSM's position for the extension and modification of economic assistance under the Compact, advocated the FSM's rationale for its position, and confirmed with the White House team their broad agreement on top-line figures for annual sector grant assistance, injections into the Compact Trust Fund, continuation of U.S. Federal Programs & Services, and a provision in an agreement regarding the continuation of direct economic assistance beyond Fiscal Year 2044 on similar favorable terms.

President Panuelo's objective during his trip to Washington, D.C., was to secure top-line figures for economic assistance to the FSM so that the U.S. Executive Branch can include the FSM's figures in its submission of its annual budget to the U.S. Congress. This is not a trivial matter; the U.S. President's budget is submitted



*Dr. Kurt Campbell & H.E. David W. Panuelo pose for a photo*

[Click here for continuation](#)



## ...Compact

*Continued from front page*

in early February, and not having these figures secured would mean delaying the FSM's movement on Compact-related issues for another year at best. While the Republic of Palau and the Republic of the Marshall Islands currently possess Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with the United States Government, the FSM had not yet reached that point. President Panuelo was, and remains, monomaniacally concerned (i.e. singularly focused or obsessed) about ensuring the Nation's continued wellbeing and future, and strengthening the FSM-U.S. Enduring Partnership in a manner that genuinely benefits both countries.

"When I reflect on this administration and the vast responsibility of the Office of the President, I told myself," President Panuelo said in a statement, "That, given the narrowing window on this, I must take decisive action for our people. I am willing to put it all on the line—and to risk my political career by taking bold action, focusing on my duty and the long-term impacts to our people—in order to secure a deal that is fundamentally in our Nation's best interests, and the best interests of our citizens."

Contemporary Sector Grant assistance under the Compact of Free Association is approximately \$80,000,000 per year to the FSM, and is increased to approximately \$93,000,000 per year if one includes the Supplemental Education Grant (SEG), which is technically an annual act of the U.S. Congress as opposed to funding secured through the treaty. President Panuelo successfully secured from the White House team their concurrence to seek to request from the U.S. Congress \$140,000,000 per year in Sector Grant assistance, or a total of \$2.8 Billion over a twenty-year period.

As the FSM's Compact Sector Grant funding resides within the FSM's States, and not at the FSM National Government, one of the impacts of

such an increase in funding would be a dramatic jump in financial support to the Yap State Government, the Chuuk State Government, the Pohnpei State Government, and the Kosrae State Government. "This is one of the ways that teachers get their salary increases so that we can retain talent and strike back at our 2% annual out-migration rate by improving student learning opportunities at home," President Panuelo said, "And this is how we can provide better pay to doctors and nurses employed at the state level, all while better supplying our public education and health infrastructure throughout the Nation."

Additionally, the President and the White House team agreed that they plan to include in an agreement a provision regarding the continuation of direct economic assistance beyond Fiscal Year 2044 on favorable terms, subject to mutual agreement. "In other words," President Panuelo said, "There will not be a fiscal cliff now or in the future. Virtually everyone had the year 2023 as a weight on their shoulders, whether they were adults or children. We aim to remove that barrier for 2044 and beyond. The Compact, like our Partnership with the United States, is Enduring."

President Panuelo articulated the FSM's intention to continue and maintain the provision of U.S. Federal Programs and Services currently provided to the FSM. The President and the White House team agreed that they intend to continue and maintain in a new agreement the provision of U.S. Federal Programs and Services that are currently provided under the Federal Programs & Services Agreement. While it is beyond the scope of this release to quantify this assistance, it is the view of the FSM Government's Executive Branch that this assistance is arguably as significant, if not more significant, than annual Sector Grant assistance. "Whether it's PELL Grants or FAA regulations or the Post Office, the continuation of essential programs and services will make a key difference for our Nation's future," the President said.

Of supreme importance to the FSM Government's long-term objectives include the health of the

FSM's Compact Trust Fund. The FSM Government projects that it is increasingly plausible that the Compact Trust Fund's dividends may, at some point in coming decades, serve as the Nation's primary source of revenue from which to fund essential programming and services to the Nation's citizens. "From Climate Change resulting in the migration of tuna from the FSM's oceanic territory

to other countries, to the unknown geopolitical scenarios in coming decades—and the problems we've identified, such as out-migration, to the problems we're less able to quantify, such as low literacy and mathematics scores, having a stable and secure source of revenue will be essential to our Nation's prosperity. We have seen other Pacific Islands and other countries enjoy being wealthy today only to become poor tomorrow—and the impact that has on families and communities. It is in our strategic interest to ensure that, no matter what the future brings, we can collectively, and always, count on the Trust Fund to be a source of revenue for our people."

Thus, President Panuelo secured from the White House team their agreement that the U.S. will intend to request a mandatory appropriation for annual installments of \$250 Million to be deposited into the Trust Fund for the People of the Federated States of Micronesia for two years, beginning in Fiscal Year 2024, for a total of \$500 Million invested in the first two years of a new agreement. This will help ensure the FSM reaches its financial goals for 2044 and beyond, and the Trust Fund is conservatively projected to reach a total value of \$4 Billion or above by 2044.

Immediately after the meetings with the White House team—late at night in his hotel room—President Panuelo urgently called the Honorable Wesley W. Simina, Speaker of the FSM Congress, so as to brief him on the conversations, and to solicit his views. After receiving the Speaker's total support, President Panuelo sought to engage with the Honorable Isaac V. Figir, Chair of the Congressional Committee on Ways & Means, among other members of the Joint Committee on Compact

Review & Planning (JCRP), who also advised of his total support for the President's engagements with the United States. As of this release, President Panuelo has concluded his briefing with Asterio R. Takesy, Chair of the JCRP, and Leo A. Falcam Jr., Chief Negotiator, on the FSM's next steps forward, such as signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in early to mid February.

At the time of this release, the FSM has not yet signed an MOU with the US Government—though it is the FSM Government's understanding that the topline funding for the Compact is secured for the purposes of the U.S. President's budget submission to the U.S. Congress. It is President Panuelo's intention to determine a date in the coming weeks for signing the MOU with the U.S., and for the FSM-side to dedicate the month of February and the beginning of March towards finalizing the few remaining elements of the negotiations, such as the Fiscal Procedures Agreement. President Panuelo intends to ensure the total conclusion of the entire negotiation process, inclusive of signing a completed agreement, before the end of administration on May 11th, 2023.

"In the first ten days of my administration I went to Washington D.C.," President Panuelo said. "The result of that visit at the beginning of my administration was to get the greenlight to start the Compact negotiations. I promised every citizen in this country that we would start that process—and it is my responsibility as your public servant, as your President, to see to it a successful conclusion. That is what we have accomplished in Washington D.C. at the end of January, achieving

an estimated combined \$7 Billion in programs and resources from Sector Grants and Trust Fund gains, not even counting all Federal Programs & Services, over the 20 years period; focusing on finishing this important work will remain my priority so that the next administration—regardless of who they are—will know that the Compact is secured for our Nation's prosperity. This is about taking actions today for our Nation's prosperity tomorrow."



# Minister Kitlang sees benefits in Compact MOU

Although Foreign Minister Kitlang Kabua said she could not share the newly signed Compact MOU at the moment because it has yet to get to the US Congress, she offered comments about it to the Journal.

The Foreign Minister's key points:

- The amount of funding provided in the MOU signed between the US and RMI on January 11, 2023 excluding Kwajalein payments is nearly four times what the US State Department insisted on as late as a year ago — and almost double what Envoy Joseph Yun offered.

- Unlike Compacts one and two, there are no step downs or decrements in assistance over the next 20 years,

- The MOU also provides that for discussions with the US through a joint review regarding continued assistance after 20 years for the next Compact term to maintain financial stability in the future to prevent eroding assistance — if we need it — and discussions every 20 years. So, the RMI benefits as long as the US benefits strategically from the RMI.

- There is additional funding and improvements to Sector Grant Assistance including payments of appropriations not made from FY2005 through FY2022 for the Supplemental Education Grant, which was discretionary funding.

- There is new money for health (universal and nuclear), climate change and environment, to address matters relating to access to nuclear testing and waste disposal documents, and very substantial additional funding that we can use at our discretion to address priority needs of the RMI, including nuclear and climate, and additional monies to pay for the Kwajalein Master Plan, all this money is in addition to amounts already in the current TF for the People of the RMI.

- Discussions will now take place on existing programs under the FPSA including the return of FDIC coverage to RMI registered banks such as BOMI. Additional



Foreign Minister Kitlang Kabua

**“The sole purpose of concluding the MOU was to have funding provided to the RMI under Compact 3 put into the US Administration’s FY 24 budget.”**

discussions will also look at the providing other U.S. domestic programs and services, and immigration matters such as citizenship.

- The sole purpose of concluding the MOU was to have funding provided to the RMI under Compact 3 put into the US Administration’s FY 24 budget. It was not to resolve other issues. Otherwise, the best we could hope for is reduced annual budgetary assistance in FY24.

- The money will be on a mandatory appropriations basis, that is guaranteed.

- Matters relating to inflation, the Trust Fund for the People of the RMI that will be repurposed to address the priority needs of the RMI with an amended Financial Procedures Agreement, JEMFAC, TFC to allow the RMI to determine use of funding are among the matters still to be negotiated.

## United resumes third weekly Island Hopper

It has been nearly three years since Majuro has seen three weekly United Airlines Island Hopper flights.

That is scheduled to change February 10-11, when United

will resume its third weekly Island Hopper flight connecting Majuro and Kwajalein with Honolulu and Guam.

For over a year, United has been operating two Island Hop-

per flights each week on a Monday-Tuesday and Wednesday-Thursday schedule. The addition will bring a Friday-Saturday flight.

United operated three flights

weekly prior to Covid. When the RMI government shut its border on March 8, 2020, United cut-back service due to the inability to bring in passengers to the RMI.