

**Annual Report FY2005**  
(October 1, 2004 - September 30, 2005)

**Marshall Islands Council of  
Non-Government Organizations,  
inc.**

(a.k.a. 'MICNGOs')

*Members:*

*Women United Together Marshall Islands, inc.*

*Youth to Youth in Health, inc.*

*Waan Aelon in Majel, inc.*

*Mission Pacific, inc.*

*Aelon Kein Ad Technical Support, inc.*

*Majuro Cooperative School, inc.*

*Marshall Islands Conservation Society, inc.*



## Acronyms Used

Aelon Kein Ad Technical Support, Inc.....	AKTS.inc
Asian Development Bank .....	ADB
Asian Development Fund .....	ADF
Association of Pacific Islands Public Auditors.....	APIPA
Economic Policy Planning and Statistics Office of the RMI.....	EPPSO
Environmental Protection Agency .....	EPA
Global Environmental Facility.....	GEF
Majuro Cooperative School .....	COOP
Marshall Islands Council of NGO's, Inc. ....	MICNGOs
Office of International Development Assistance .....	OIDA
Republic of the Marshall Islands .....	RMI
Re-thinking Education in Micronesia .....	REIM
Small Grants Program.....	SGP
Sub-Regional Steering Committee (GEF/SGP).....	SRSC
United Nations Development Programme .....	UNDP
Waan Aelon in Majel.....	WAM
Women United Together in the Marshall Islands .....	WUTMI
Youth To Youth in Health .....	YTYIH



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## **Section 1.0 Background**

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The Marshall Islands Council of Non-Government Organizations, Incorporated (MICNGOs) is a coalition of non-government organizations (NGOs) which became duly chartered in the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) on July 31, 2003, as a non-profit non-government organization.

The founding members of MICNGOs, Inc. are: Youth to Youth in Health, Inc., Women United Together Marshall Islands, Inc., Waan Aelon in Majel, Inc., Mission Pacific, Inc., and Aelon Kein Ad Technical Support, Inc. These organizations share the following characteristics:

- ❑ Formally chartered in the RMI
- ❑ Community-based, non-profit organization
- ❑ Currently visible programs and projects in the RMI
- ❑ Documented substantive record of accomplishments
- ❑ Over four years experience operating as an active NGO
- ❑ Demonstrated success with multiple funding mechanism

Per its by-laws, MICNGOs has a Board of Directors and four levels of membership. The Board of Directors consists of a President, a First Vice President, a Second Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. The four levels of membership are (i) Executive Members, (ii) Associate Members, (iii) Affiliate Members, (iv) Standing Members.

Majuro Cooperative School joined in FY 2004 as an executive member and Marshall Islands Conservation Society achieved associate member status during this fiscal year.

## **Section 2.0 Mission Statement**

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The purpose of MICNGOs is to serve as a voice for community-based, non-profit, non-government organizations operating, or interested in operating, in the Republic in order to ensure interaction and information dissemination among community-based non-government organizations in the Republic, and effective communication between local non-government organizations and national, regional, and international parties; to assist in the identification of needs and to target the flow of resources within and across governmental and non-governmental sectors: to encourage and commit to principals of capacity building, sustainable and appropriate development, accountability, transparency, cultural competency, and responsible stewardship.

## **Section 3.0 Organizational Functions**

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Organizational Functions within the declared scope of interest for MICNGOs include:

- ❑ **Planning.** MICNGOs is committed to promote, implement, monitor, and otherwise ensure that comprehensive and strategic planning efforts specific to development of the NGO, or social sector, of the RMI, conducted in the region on an on-going basis. These efforts are to include needs assessment, manpower development, resource development, data systems, program evaluation, etc.

- ❑ **Policy Development.** MICNGOs will implement, monitor, and otherwise ensure policies and practices which are consistent with acceptable standards of accountability within the Marshall Islands. MICNGOs will ensure that such standards are appropriate to the cultural contexts, political contexts, and fiscal realities of these developing small island nations and territories.
- ❑ **Program Development.** MICNGOs will accept direct responsibility for the operation of a limited number of on-going programs which are determined to be essential to the mission of the MICNGOs and its members.
- ❑ **Project Development.** MICNGOs will sponsor projects and activities pursuant to its mission statement including, but not limited to:
  - capacity-building for the social and civil sectors
  - survey work and other information gathering efforts
  - awareness and information dissemination
  - reporting and monitoring efforts
  - income generation
  - innovating and developing meaningful areas of assistance to the National government in improving the services available to citizens of the RMI
- ❑ **Networking.** MICNGOs networks with regional and international organizations, attracting them to the RMI and forming partnerships for collaboration at regional and sub-regional levels in fulfilling the organizational mission.

#### **Section 4.0 Board of Directors**

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The officers for Fiscal Year 2005:

President: Marie Maddison, Women United Together Marshall Islands, Inc.,  
 First-Vice President: Alson Kelen, Waan Aelon in Majel, Inc.  
 Second-Vice President: Emi Chutaro, Youth to Youth in Health, Inc.  
 Treasurer: Betty Jibke, Aelon Kein Ad Technical Services, Inc.  
 Secretary: Amy Olson, Majuro Cooperative School

#### **Section 5.0 Programs**

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MICNGOs had 3 programs related to the organizational functions in FY 2005.

##### **5.1 – Policy Development**

MICNGOs had opportunity this year to lobby the EPA board in their decision as to the location of a proposed drydock facility proposed in the central business district of Majuro and sponsored by the government of Taiwan. MICNGOs comments pointed to the uncalculated social costs of the project and endorsed comments from MICS as to the environmental hazards of the project. Copies of these comments are included as an appendix to this report.

##### **5.2 – Program Development**

MICNGOs calendar of training and capacity building continued this fiscal year with the sponsorship of Majuro’s QuickBooks Users Group. The QuickBooks Users Group met six times during the year. Topics covered in the meetings included:

- ❑ Review of the 2004 APIPA Conference

- Review of the Participatory Budgeting Process
- Depreciation of fixed assets by funder
- Setting up QuickBooks to handle RMI payroll taxes
- Training on the use of an Excel spreadsheet developed as a payroll control for Quickbooks payroll calculations

Kaylyn Hipple of executive member Mission Pacific received certification as a QuickBooks ProAdvisor, tying MICNGOs into more resources for building financial capacity using the software program. The participation of the Upward Bound program in the Users group was a great support to our efforts this year.

### 5.3 – Networking

Here is a partial list of such events where MICNGOs was represented and/or presented:

November, 2004	Pacific Islands Association of Libraries	Majuro
March, 2005	GEF 3 <sup>rd</sup> Overall Performance Study Conference	Nadi, Fiji
March, 2005	SGP Sub-regional Workshop	Majuro
April, 2005	ADB Participatory Budgeting Workshop	Suva, Fiji
April, 2005	Facilitating Behavior Change for HIV/AIDS	Majuro
July, 2005	Visit of Associate Minister from New Zealand	Majuro
August, 2005	Meeting with UNESCO Director-General	Majuro

## Section 6.0 Projects

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### 6.1 – Asian Development Bank

*Kaylyn Hipple represented MICNGOs at the Participatory Budgeting Workshop held in Suva, Fiji in April 2005. Information was made available about the Asian Development Fund, the instrument used to finance concessionary loans, grants and TA's. ADB representatives acknowledged that NGOs are a rich repository of knowledge and information as well as in-country expertise that could be a valuable resource to the Bank in furthering their development goals. There is an NGO unit at the Bank and they have trust funds that make grants to NGOs. To-date this NGO unit has received very few proposals from the Pacific.*

#### **Project #1 - ADB Truancy Project:**

MICNGOs members administered over 350 surveys to students and parent households of the two largest elementary schools in the Majuro public school system. Surveys were received for processing in a timely manner. The survey results were presented at the REIM Conference (see Section 6.5). A Final Report entitled Cultural-Social & Educational Truancy in the Republic of the Marshall Islands was submitted to the ADB in November 2004. A project binder containing a complete set of information including financial information has been filed with the Office of the MICNGOs President. This project is considered to be successfully completed.

## **Project #2 Youth Social Services Project**

MICNGOs provided assistance for the youth forums and discussion groups by providing facilitators for youth focus groups. The use of 11 individual staff members from five local NGOs as Project Facilitators was excellent for local capacity building. Each received several days of training in how to facilitate the workshops in a participatory manner. They also gained actual field experience as they assisted with workshops held in Majuro, Ebeye, Jaluit, and Wotje. Phase 2 of this project is strategic development of resources for youth and it was indicated in the final ADB report that MICNGOs will be involved in this Phase of the project as well.

## **6.2 – U. S. Department of Interior**

### **Technical Assistance Request for Strengthening Civil Society in the RMI:**

Development of the proposal continued this fiscal year.

## **6.3 – European Union**

At the beginning of this fiscal year there has yet to be much movement with the EU project for NGOs. Bruce Bilimon replaced Caston Nemra as coordinator of OIDA in the RMI Ministry of Finance. He is our government contact for this project. MICNGOs continued to finalize the proposal to EU for supporting the NGO contingent for the RMI.

In early December Bruce Bilimon met with MICNGOs so that we could work towards moving our project forward. At the beginning of 2005 another staff change occurred: Julie Sutherland, the EU representative in Fiji, left her post. With no immediate replacement, the project was slowed again.

In April the EU approved the RMI Country Support Strategy (CSS) for Education & Renewable Energy project, with 15% (EU\$500,000) of the total funding envelope specifically designated for NGOs. EU sent MICNGOs a draft of the Financing Proposal for these funds. MICNGOs finalized the proposal and re-submitted. There were questions concerning the revision and expectations from MICNGOs. EU representatives Julie Sutherland and Cherie Chapman were scheduled to come to Majuro to meet with MICNGOs on April 20 – April 21<sup>st</sup>. The meeting was unfortunately cancelled due to an accident during their travel.

By early summer Surendra Sharma, who was representing the RMI at the EU in Brussels left his post, having never received full diplomatic status from the RMI. This hurt the RMI tremendously, as Mr. Sharma was fully versed on ACP/EU policy, having worked for the Pacific initiatives in Europe for more than ten years. We were told that there was apparently no one in Europe to represent RMI. At the time, Bruce Bilimon relayed to MICNGOs that there was a representative from New Guinea who would be available to help but that never came to fruition, hence slowing the NGO process down even more.

By the end of the summer it appeared that the final draft of the MICNGOs proposal had not received the necessary approval from the RMI Minister of Finance. Possible

strategies to facilitate getting this approval were discussed. At that time it was agreed that MICNGOs President Marie Maddison would contact the newly appointed Secretary of Finance, Jeffery Barton to attempt a meeting schedule with herself, Mr. Barton, Mr. Nemra and Mr. Bilimon to encourage the speedy processing of the draft.

MICNGOs has revised the proposal again based on requests from the EU and in anticipation of forward movement at the government level.

#### **6.4 – GEF Small Grants Program**

*MICNGOs representative Dennis Alessio attended the GEF's 3<sup>rd</sup> Overall Performance Study conference in Fiji in March. This meeting was related to all GEF-related programming in the Pacific region. Representatives of all NGOs in the region were invited to a round table discussion of how NGOs and government can better work together for common goals. The consultation included closed-door meetings with NGOs and separate closed door meetings with government representatives. In addition there was an opportunity for EU representatives to meet with the attendees individually. It was a positive meeting with more openness and understanding of how to move forward and progress with more government and NGO collaboration. MICNGOs took the opportunity to meet with other FSM NGO representatives to continue dialogue about the SGP program specifically.*

In December of 2004 recruitment for the Sub Regional Coordinator position began. A three-day sub-regional workshop was held from 29 - 31 March 2005 in Majuro. National budgets were decided during the meeting. RMI's budget was estimated at \$150,000 for the first three-year project timeline in 5 environmental focal areas: 1) Biodiversity 2) Climate Change 3) International Waters 4) Land Degradation/Sustainable Land Management 5) Persistent Organic Pollutants. The RFP solicited proposals that would have a positive impact on 1) Environment focal areas 2) Livelihood of communities (income generation, health, education and well-being) and 3) Empowering communities to be able to address community needs and issues.

A National Focal Group was organized consisting of one member from the Churches, representatives of some of the founding members of MICNGOs, the RMI Mayor's Association and representatives of NGOs in Ebeye. A meeting followed in May to strategize and plan for the first year's budget. Deadline for submittal of proposals was September 30 2005. MICNGOs prepared and submitted a proposal to strengthen NGO capacities to apply for and manage SGP funding available for communities to address environmental, livelihood and empowerment issues.

At the next monthly meeting it was decided by the National Focal Group that MICNGOs would be taking on the role of supporting the SGP, with the focus on educating local NGOs and the community about the opportunities available for funding of environmental projects from GEF-SGP as well as other donors. By the end of the fiscal year, MICNGOs proposal was received but not yet fully approved. This program continues to

grow and gain capacity with a National Focal Group and a National Focal Person approved to facilitate the program

## 6.5 – UNESCO

*In August 2005, MICNGOs hosted a lunch for UNESCO Director-General Koïchiro Matsuura during his two-day country visit to the Marshall Islands in response to an invitation from Micronesian representatives at a UNESCO convention held earlier in the year. Members were able to get acquainted with the Director and present him with materials from each of their respective organizations.*

### **Re-thinking Education in Micronesia Conference October 27-29, 2004:**

This conference brought together approximately 160 participants from all sectors of Micronesian and Marshallese society to discuss culturally appropriate alternatives to Western-based curricula in Micronesian public educational system. The discussions also provided participants with a more in-depth understanding of the underlying issues facing poor education outcomes in the Pacific today.

A majority of the participants were education professionals and teachers representing government, community-based and private education institutions, and some local churches. For many Marshallese teachers, this was the first-ever conference of its kind they attended, particularly teachers from the rural, outer-islands.

The conference was a success and had the following outcomes:

- Establishing a Commission on Education in Micronesia (CEM). The primary mission of CEM is “*to work toward an appropriately balanced integration of indigenous cultural knowledge, philosophies and practices in the educational processes and structures aimed at Micronesian children.*”
- Eight research papers were submitted for publication to the Victoria University in New Zealand. After publication the papers were disseminated to conference participants and major Pacific donors and aid/development agencies.
- A follow up session was held at the Pacific Educators Conference in Majuro July, 2005 to develop further awareness for, and seek support of educators and policy makers about the Re-thinking Education initiative and work currently underway.
- Production of the REIM 2004 DVD. Sales of the DVD are an income-generation effort for MICNGOs.
- MICNGOs published an advertisement in the November and December issues of *Pacific Magazine* featuring sales of the REIM DVD. A copy of the advertisement is in the appendix to this report.

## Section 7.0 Financial Reports

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**Marshall Islands Council of NGO's Inc.**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
**As of September 30, 2005**

<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
General Account BOMI 950420	6,881.83
Total Checking/Savings	6,881.83
Accounts Receivable	
Accounts Receivable	300.00
Total Accounts Receivable	300.00
Total Current Assets	7,181.83
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>7,181.83</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
Payroll Liabilities	22.76
Total Other Current Liabilities	22.76
Total Current Liabilities	22.76
Total Liabilities	22.76
Net Assets	
Unrestricted	1,672.23
Restricted	5,486.84
Total Net Assets	7,159.07
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>7,181.83</b>

**Marshall Islands Council of NGO's Inc.**  
**Statement of Activities**  
**October 1, 2004 - September 30, 2005**

	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<b>Revenues</b>			
Grants	26,000.00	0.00	26,000.00
Membership Dues	0.00	1,300.00	1,300.00
Reimbursed Expenses	581.00	0.00	581.00
Services	14,100.00	0.00	14,100.00
Workshop registration fees	621.00	0.00	621.00
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>41,302.00</b>	<b>1,300.00</b>	<b>42,602.00</b>
<b>Expense</b>			
<b>MEDIA AND PROMOTION</b>	9,000.00	0.00	9,000.00
<b>OVERHEAD COSTS</b>			
Bank fees & charges	30.00	0.00	30.00
Postage	12.80	0.00	12.80
<b>SALARIES</b>			
Payroll Expenses	1,105.00	179.83	1,284.83
<b>Total SALARIES</b>	<b>1,105.00</b>	<b>179.83</b>	<b>1,284.83</b>
<b>Total OVERHEAD COSTS</b>	<b>1,147.80</b>	<b>179.83</b>	<b>1,327.63</b>
<b>Professional Fees</b>			
Contracted Services	18,200.00	0.00	18,200.00
<b>Total Professional Fees</b>	<b>18,200.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>18,200.00</b>
<b>PROFESSIONAL NETWORKING</b>			
Meetings	0.00	136.18	136.18
<b>Total PROFESSIONAL NETWORKING</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>136.18</b>	<b>136.18</b>
<b>TRAINING &amp; CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT</b>			
<b>MICNGO-sponsored</b>			
<b>Workshop Costs</b>			
Per diems	-160.00	0.00	-160.00
Workshop Costs - Other	8,205.80	0.00	8,205.80
<b>Total Workshop Costs</b>	<b>8,045.80</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>8,045.80</b>
<b>Total TRAINING &amp; CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT</b>	<b>8,045.80</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>8,045.80</b>
<b>TRAVEL</b>			
Airfare	2,869.06	0.00	2,869.06
<b>Total TRAVEL</b>	<b>2,869.06</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>2,869.06</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>39,262.66</b>	<b>316.01</b>	<b>39,578.67</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>			
Change in Net Assets	-1,408.16	295.75	-1,112.41
Net Assets at beginning of the period as of 10/1/04	3,447.50	688.24	4,135.74
<b>Net Assets as of 9/30/05</b>	<b>2,039.34</b>	<b>983.99</b>	<b>3,023.33</b>

**Marshall Islands Council of NGO's Inc**  
**Statement of Functional Expenses**  
**October 1, 2004 - September 30, 2005**

	<u>Supporting Services</u>	<u>Program Services</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<b>Expense</b>			
<b>Media and Promotion</b>	0.00	9,000.00	9,000.00
<b>Operating Expenses</b>			
<b>Bank fees &amp; charges</b>	30.00	0.00	30.00
<b>Postage</b>	0.00	12.80	12.80
<b>Compensation and related expense</b>			
<b>Salaries and Wages</b>	<u>732.33</u>	<u>552.50</u>	<u>1,284.83</u>
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	762.33	565.30	1,327.63
<b>Professional Fees</b>			
<b>Contracted Services</b>	0.00	18,200.00	18,200.00
<b>Meetings</b>	<u>136.18</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>136.18</u>
<b>Total Professional Fees</b>	136.18	18,200.00	18,336.18
<b>Training &amp; Capacity Development</b>			
<b>MICNGO - sponsored workshop costs</b>	0.00	8,045.80	8,045.80
<b>Travel</b>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>2,869.06</u>	<u>2,869.06</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u><b>898.51</b></u>	<u><b>38,680.16</b></u>	<u><b>39,578.67</b></u>

## **Appendix 1.0 Comments to EPA on proposed drydock facility**

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2 June 2005

### **COMMENTS OF MICNGOS ON THE DRYDOCK AND THE DRYDOCK EIA TO THE RMI EPA BOARD**

MICNGOs has concerns over the environmental impact assessment conducted on the drydock which is to be located at the Uliga dock. Because MICNGOs has been participating in studies, projects, and activities that are aimed to improve the quality of life of the people in all aspects, including education, health, lifestyle, livelihood, sports and culture, it is imperative that MICNGOs make its views known and advice offered against the subject business plan and study. The EIA did not and could not fully address all the concerns raised in our findings.

The study could not address the social impact the drydock will have on the people and the communities as well as the government. Because there will be an average of 28 ships serviced by the drydock a year, that means at least two ships a month will be docked with crew members residing within the communities. More seamen ashore usually means more social activities that can harm the communities. The incidence of prostitution, substance abuse, assaults, STDs/HIV/AIDS, and black-marketing, could easily rise. Rising of incidents requires more commitment of human, finance, and program resources, which are already scarce.

The study could not possibly take into account the strains already experienced by local families, youth, children, and businesses. The studies show that teen pregnancies are high, domestic violence is high, suicide is high, criminal acts resulting from substance abuse are on the rise, and good cultural values and practices have weakened. The density from over-crowdedness of people, homes, facilities, vehicles, and heavy equipment particularly in the DUD area cannot afford to house industrial types of development – given the high prevalence of social concerns mentioned above.

MICNGOs believes in the following guiding principles which the Ministry of Internal Affairs tasked an ADB consulting team to address in the development of programs for our young people: *Sustainability, Gender Equality, Cultural Preservation, Transparency, Collaboration and Partnership*. While the drydock is not a government project, it is viewed as a developmental project which is to provide for the livelihood of the Marshallese and raise their quality of life. The EIA and the Drydock itself fell short of addressing these fundamental developmental values.

Lastly, MICNGOs sponsors the submission of the attached comments from the Marshall Islands Conservation Society.

Submitted:

Marie L Maddison,  
President of MICNGOs

## COMMENTS ON THE DRYDOCK AND THE DRYDOCK EIA

1. Industrial developments in coral atoll environments are not good, in principle. No matter how good the controls and monitoring that are in place, there will always be “leaks” and the coral atoll environment is particularly susceptible to pollution. Cumulative impacts on Majuro lagoon coral ecosystems are growing and accelerating; we do not need more industry to intensify these impacts. If anything, we should be scaling back and more intensively mitigating the many known impacts, instead of adding more uncertainty and new pollution hazards. Industrial projects such as this do not belong in the Marshall Islands.
2. It is quite disturbing that the EIA has been completed by a public relations company. In addition, none of the scientists that undertook the environmental components of the EIA had a scientific education above the level of a BS which raises questions about their abilities to objectively deal with the pollution aspects of the EIA, especially in regards to pollution by metals and antifouling residuals, which is highly complex chemistry.
3. Given the public relations spin, there are of course no “real” negative “consequences” or impacts discussed in the EIA. We are given the impression that everything will be fine. Even the inclusion of “alternative” sites is not a realistic comparison since the sites are discounted immediately in terms of the developer’s preferences. An EIA should consider realistic alternatives. If there are none then the project should be turned down since the residential and business-district of Uliga is clearly not the right place given the industrial nature of the project. Plus the EIA has been incorrectly carried out if alternatives are not given realistic consideration.
4. Given the spin, therefore, and since real impacts are not discussed and are conveniently hidden behind such terms as “state of the art” and “no painting and cleaning waste released to the local environment”, then the whole report is questionable. “No painting and cleaning waste released to the local environment” is a flippant statement and idealized since in order for this to take place, highly committed workers, owners and government inspectors will need to be involved. There is no evidence so far of this commitment and experience being found in the Marshall Islands (or indeed in places such as Taiwan). If we had a track record of effectively mitigating environmental impacts and managing industries so they are “100%” clean, then all the rhetoric and monitoring discussed in the report becomes believable, but we don’t, so therefore it’s all hype and potential. Since, those of us who live here deal in the reality of these constraints, then the gaps or weak spots in this “house of cards” can clearly be seen. No one is attacking EPA by this statement. However, in order to protect our environment we need to be realistic.
5. To be non-polluting, the drydock apparently depends upon dust covers, oil separators, sump drains to contain toxic particulate matter, waste recovery, and storm water containment and pumping. Here in the Marshalls that is a completely unrealistic list. Even with all the good intent in the world, it is completely unreasonable to assume that all of these mitigating processes will function properly, to “100%” as claimed. The proponent’s fallback that there may be some “operator error” is also an inapplicable term here in the Marshalls since it is fair to say that here in the Marshalls we have a very poor level of understanding about and respect for what is polluting and what is not. Most of the “operators” at the dry dock will have this level of understanding, and will be making poor decisions for the environment, so the EIA represents a considerable exaggeration of what can be expected over the long term.
6. Unfortunately, the result will be elevated pollution – of the worse kind, heavy metals and other organo chemicals that silently kill all life. That is what antifouling paint is designed for – to kill. A look at the existing drydock underwater shows most life has been killed up to 100 meters from the drydock; only toxic-tolerant and invasive species are evident in the zone around the dry dock.

This zone at Delap under and adjacent to the existing drydock is considerably “more dead” than the sediments in the Uliga area, which even in their supposed “polluted state” have many more living organisms in the vicinity. Drydock waste kills. We do not need to add to this problem or hazard in our lagoon.

7. The developers use additional levels of spin when they claim their methods are acceptable in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park in Australia and therefore are good for here. I question this since most of the areas in the GBRMP which are zoned for such industrial developments are not immediately on top of coral reefs, they are in coastal bays and inlets considerably removed – hundreds of miles - from the park’s coral reef systems. This is therefore not a fair comparison and is more spin to confuse the stakeholders and regulators in the Marshalls.

8. People from the community use the Uliga area in which to fish and harvest seafood. It is clearly not as polluted as the developers claim since there is a level of ecosystem quality that we depend upon even now. Placing a significant chemical pollution hazard in the middle of this area is completely inappropriate.

9. Metals and antifouling compounds kill the larvae and young stages of all marine life. This happens at extremely low concentrations, in the parts per billion and trillion range. Only extremely high tech science and monitoring can be certain about these levels. Sampling for such low concentrations is extremely difficult and there are common problems such as contamination during sampling. Any results showing compliance would therefore have a high uncertainty and independent monitoring in this high tech environment is expensive and unavailable here in the Marshalls. Even if samples are sent overseas, since we are dealing with such low levels of toxin, and metal chemistry, it is virtually impossible to take such samples without being laboratory trained and metals-accredited. Doing water and sediment chemistry on metals is orders of magnitude more complex than much simpler monitoring of dissolved nutrients and other constituents. We don’t have the capacity or “inclination” to carry out the latter, so we are discussing compliance monitoring for residual metals, TBT and other components at the dream level. Establishing the real levels of contamination will take time, funds and professional commitments that are beyond what is described in the EIA or available locally. All the testing discussion is therefore nonsense.

10. Acute toxicity kills organisms but chronic, long term exposure to low levels of such toxins is enough to disturb the reproduction and recruitment of coral reef and lagoon organisms. Therefore, the drydock WILL have significant negative environmental impact, and it is folly to believe otherwise.

In conclusion, the likely risks of pollution associated with the dry dock development far exceed any benefits. The proposed mitigations are unrealistic. The project should be firmly denied by EPA.

Steve Why  
Marshall Islands Conservation Society (MICS)  
PO Box 649, Majuro, MH 96960  
May 25, 2005

# REIM Conference

*Honoring Our Indigenous Voices and Visions*

PHOTOS BY: MARIE MADDISON

The REIM Conference, "Honoring Our Indigenous Voices and Visions" held in Majuro in October 2004, provided a rare opportunity for Micronesian educators to critique education in Micronesia with minimal constraints put on them by outside donors and agencies. The conference was organized by leaders of the REIM Initiative and MICNGOs and made possible through funding support from NZAID, UNESCO, PERF and PREL. A number of activities under the REIM initiative have taken place since the Majuro conference including:

- Production of the REIM 2004 DVD
- Eight papers on the general topic of rethinking education, tabled at



Canisius Filibert, one of the speakers from Palau.

the REIM conference, were completed and submitted to the Pacific Education Research Fund (PERF) at Victoria University in New Zealand for publication.

- A follow up REIM workshop session at the Pacific Education Conference this July (PEC) in Majuro, to develop further awareness for, and seek support of educators and policy makers, about the rethinking education initiative and work currently underway.
- Establishment of a committee to take appropriate action in response to one of the recommendations of the Majuro REIM conference for formation of a Commission on Education in Micronesia (CEM). A concept paper outlining the purpose, mission and functions of the commission has been formulated and voted on, with overwhelming support, as of September 23, 2005. The mission of the CEM is "to work



L-R: Joanne Sebastian Morris, the Education Specialist in the Honolulu Field Office, Office of Insular Affairs, U.S. Dept. of Interior, Evelyn Konou, Principal, Delap Elementary School in Majuro, Dr. Hilda Heine, and Canisius Filibert.

toward an appropriately balanced integration of indigenous cultural knowledge, philosophies and practices in the educational processes and structures aimed at Micronesian children?.

Concurrently, Micronesian educators continue to draw and learn from Pacific region and world initiatives and activities through conferences and other means, all aiming at sharing and learning about how indigenous knowledge and processes can play a more central role in the education and lives of Micronesian people.

## Marshall Islands Council of NGOs (MICNGOs)

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SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION

# **Minutes**

**Marshall Islands Council of Non-Government Organizations  
(MICNGOs)**

Minutes: Regular Monthly Meeting  
October 7, 2004  
9:00 am, Thursday

Roll Call:	Michael Jenkins	AKTS.inc
	Terry Sasser	Mission Pacific
	Kaylyn Hipple	Mission Pacific
	Alson Kelen	WAM
	Dennis Allesio	WAM
	Marie Madison	WUTMI

Note: Quorum Achieved. Move to call to order by Dennis. Seconded by Michael.

Minutes taken by: Kaylyn

Minutes from September 9<sup>th</sup> and September 22<sup>nd</sup> meetings were presented. It was observed that we do not have minutes prepared for the Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. It was decided that everyone who took notes at that meeting should submit their notes to Michael and he will add them as an addendum to the Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes. Michael moved to have Meeting Minutes for September 9<sup>th</sup> accepted with addendum pending and September 22 minutes accepted. Kaylyn seconded. All agreed.

Agenda was reviewed. Under Programs we added: annual report, bi-laws, and officers; and quarterly workshops

**Reports:**

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**Coastal Management Policy & Planning Review Questionnaire:** we need to remember that our response to this questionnaire is due in February.

**EU Project Status:** No movement. Bruce Bilimon has replaced Caston as coordinator of Office of Development Assistance. He is our contact for this project.

**DOI TA:** Carl says he is waiting on us. Marie said we had already sent him the items he needed. Giff was the one that sent them to him, so Marie will ask Giff to resend the items to him and cc all of us.

**Calendar of Events:**

---

**Travel:** Michael Jenkins will be gone from Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> – Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>

### **Meetings:**

- Oct. 16 – 23<sup>rd</sup> WUTMI General Assembly Workshops will be held and a revised national policy developed. Marie asked for Alison to present the *Canoe's of the Marshall Islands*. The conference will be in the Natijel Conference Room.
- Oct. 24 – 29<sup>th</sup> Rethinking Education
- Nov. (Second Week) Pacific Islands Association of Libraries. Mary Silk asked MICNGOs to give a presentation at this meeting.

### **Rethinking Education Project:**

---

Marie reported that ADB has paid for the venue and \$3,000 for supplies. Emi is working with Giff on booking tickets and hotel. The hotel rooms will be tax exempt.

Dennis will follow-up with Jill to check on status of drawdown. (There has been \$20,000 draw down request presented. Jill is following up with Pearl on the drawdown. Jill will deposit the drawdown in the MICNGOs account upon receipt.)

The \$\$\$ need to be tracked. MICNGOs would like to see the person who tracks these dollars receive 5% to 10% as an administrative fee.

Marie will ask Emi or Pearl to ask UNICEF the following questions:

1. Can we use funds for this kind of administration.
2. Can MICNGOs members be paid through this grant for services?
3. May we reprogram \$5,000 of the funds earmarked for “research” to video production and proceedings? This would be paid to Mission Pacific for video.

Mission Pacific charges \$5,000 a day for a top notch video production. They could produce a somewhat scaled down, but adequate video for \$5,000 for the three days. Terry would prefer to shoot the whole conference, rather than trying to just shoot highlights. This way the footage would be available for future projects.

Terry to meet with Hilda, Emi, and Marie to discuss make a video of the conference. They will also discuss PA needs in general.

Michael suggested that we request 3 1/2 hour slots (one on each day) for MICNGOs presentations. Terry thought that was an excellent idea and others agreed.

The role of media in education should be a topic discussed and presented.

Terry offered to bring a big screen and a video projector to show the canoe video and also to assist others who might like to make powerpoint presentations.

We can also make booths and set up tables showing things. Terry said that if everyone gives him their logo's he will make a nice poster for MICNGOs. Mission Pacific would like to beautify the conference venue with a variety of posters.

Michael to leave some examples of educational books.

R & R for the conference. Michael knows at least one lady who could perform an excellent R & R which would be great to have on video. He suggested that we might be able to hire several different individuals to perform these for perhaps \$100 each. This would also help break up the conference.

V7AB is expected to broadcast the opening ceremony. It was thought that it would be a good idea to look into having the whole conference broadcast.

## **Truancy Project:**

---

### **Phase III: Training and Survey Administration**

#### **Successes**

- Delap Elementary School, Middle School students from Delap, and members of the community were surveyed.
- Over 350 surveys were completed.
- WUTMI received all surveys by Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Challenges**

- The last two pages of the survey were difficult to complete
- The abilities of some of the data collectors, particularly of the home surveys
- School and home surveys were not taken on the same day
- This phase of the project was one week behind it's deadline due to unforeseen obstacles

#### **Bottom Line:**

- This phase has been completed successfully by Youth to Youth in Health.

Youth to Youth will send a final billing and letter of completion so that they can receive their final payment for services rendered.

### **Phase IV: Data Analysis and Summary of Findings**

Michael successfully negotiated with Patty McDonald to handle the Data Coding, Data Analysis and Summary of Findings. She said normally a job like this would take her two months at \$5,000 a month. Michael and Patty were able to work out a very satisfactory evaluation process which she will complete in one month for \$5,000.

WUTMI will be paying Patty \$2,500

AKTS.inc Will be paying Patty \$1,250

WAM will be paying Patty \$1,250

(AKTS.inc had originally planned to pay \$2,500, but WAM offered to split the cost.)

Patty stated that questions that involve ranking have been found to be too difficult to use in surveys in the US as well, so it was decided that the last two pages of the survey would be eliminated.

Patty was also able to analyze the surveys and determine which surveys had probably not been administered properly and eliminate them. Even after these were eliminated, we still had 250 usable surveys, which was our goal.

Patty is extremely well qualified for this job and has a good working relationship with Agnes who will be making the presentation at Rethinking Education. Patty will also be attending the Rethinking Education conference and will be available to answer questions after Agnes' presentation.

Marie needs to receive a semifinal draft of Patty's findings by Oct. 2 to give Agnes time to prepare her presentation. (Would Michael be the one to communicate that to Patty?)

Marie agreed to send Patty an invitation to the Rethinking Education seminar.

### **GEF Project**

---

There should be an article in this week's paper about the trip that Marie, Dennis and Yumi took.

There should also be a job announcement for the Sub-Regional Coordinator in this week's paper.

Dennis will follow-up with Yumi on the cabinet paper draft.

### **SAPT Grant (Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment)**

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This is a block grant from the US. All of the other members of MICNGOs are participating in this grant and Michael has asked Mission Pacific if they would be interested in making a Jail Based Substance Abuse video. The idea would be to interview inmates to show how substance abuse has affected their lives and then show these videos at schools.

Michael has one young, recently incarcerated inmate in mind that he would like to video tape now and then follow as he serves his time.

Marie said she would encourage the video to include adult women with substance abuse issues, not just men. Just recently at a WUTMI meeting the issue of alcoholism among women was discussed and it is a growing problem.

The time frame for the video would be between now and June – 2005

### **Programs**

---

**Annual Report:** We would like to find someone to hire to write an annual report for MICNGOs. We would like to see this done sometime in early January. This person would be given all our minutes and other pertinent information. Ellia Sablan was suggested for this job. She has a Masters in Public Administration.

This annual report will also look at the Quarterly Workshops that were accomplished this year keeping in mind that in lieu of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarterly workshops we did the Truancy Project and are co-hosting the Rethinking Education workshop.

**Retreat:** Once the annual report is completed, we would have a retreat. At the retreat we would:

- Review Annual Report
- Work on Values Clarification
- Review Bi-laws
- Elect Officers
- Discuss Dues
- Plan for Quarterly workshops
  - MICNGOs workshop to solidify understanding of MICNGOs and open membership to other NGOs
  - Audit workshop (James Jennings)

**EU Funding through Strategic Education Consultation:**

Brenda is the contact person for this. There is a consultant on island right now who is working on this project and has been in communication with Marie.

**ADB Consultant:**

An ADB Consultant who is doing strategic planning for women's handicrafts is meeting with Dennis. Dennis will recommend that she meet with all of us.

Moved to Adjourn: Marie Maddison

Seconded by: Michael Jenkins

Adjourned by Marie Maddison

**Marshall Islands Council of Non-Government Organizations  
(MICNGOs)**

Minutes: Regular Monthly Meeting  
December 2, 2004  
9:00 am, Thursday

Roll Call:	Kaylyn Hipple	Mission Pacific
	Dennis Allessio	WAM
	Marie Madison	WUTMI
	Giff Johnson	Youth to Youth

Note: Quorum Achieved. Move to call to order by Marie. Seconded by Dennis.

Minutes taken by: Kaylyn

Minutes from November 4<sup>th</sup> were not presented. It was noted that regular business was not handled at that meeting. *[We didn't have a quorum until the ADB Consultants on Youth Skills arrived – so the whole meeting was taken up talking to them. I think that Dennis, Alson, Marie, Giff, Emi(?) and Kaylyn were there.]* The issue of minutes was not resolved. *[Note also that there were two other meetings in the month of November – Nov. 24<sup>th</sup> we had a meeting with the ladies from the Women's Training Marketing and Inf. Center and then a meeting with Steve Pollard. (Marie, Terry, Dennis, Alson, Emi and Kaylyn were there) On Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> we had a meeting with SOPAC (Dennis, Marie & Kaylyn)]*

Agenda was reviewed. Marie moved to focus on reports section of the agenda this meeting as several members need to leave early. All agreed.

Please note that the meeting was not officially called to order until a little after 10:00 am. From 9:00 – 10:00 there was some informal discussion:

- **GEF/SGP** – it was noted that there is a candidate for Sub-regional Coordinator that Marie and Dennis favor for the leadership position over this project and there is some maneuvering going on so they are going to work towards supporting their candidate. *(Any next step?)*
- **Pacific Educational Conference (PEC)**. Terry Sasser reported that this will be a huge conference with over a thousand in attendance. The dates are set for July 12 – 15<sup>th</sup>. Brenda is the chairman of the Program Committee. PRELL is involved, although my understanding is that they are not leading in the area of logistics. Terry and Amy Sasser are chairing the Publicity Committee and it was suggested by Terry and agreed to by Dennis and Marie that we should try to get a MICNGOs member on the Program Committee.
- **Rethinking Education Video**. This was also discussed and Marie and Dennis felt it would be good to find out how much money is left over from the travel budget for the conference and get permission from the donor to reprogram that to the video production and then let Terry know how much he will have to work with. Then he will have an idea how advanced the editing can get. It was generally agreed that the deliverable should be in DVD format and be set up in such a way that people can skip from one speaker or

forum to the next. It was suggested that MICNGOs could sell the DVD's as well. (Terry had to leave at this point for a 10:00 am PEC meeting.)

## **Reports:**

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**1. DOI TA Proposal:** Roilyn (*sorry I know this name is wrong*) commented that we need to narrow the focus on this proposal. Giff agreed with this assessment. Giff agreed to revise the proposal by Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>. He mentioned that he planned to get help from Emi on revising the budget. (This is the proposal for funding from ADB for Dr. Bush to come out and do some assessment and training to help with NGO sector capacity building.)

**2. World Bank Briefing:** Marie passed out a PowerPoint handout entitled RMI Country Study: Issues and questions for Discussion, Nov. 5, 2004. This briefing will be used by the WB and potentially other donors to help link funding to poverty reduction. It is still in the draft stage. It was noted by Giff that one chart shows The Marshall Island is off-track in 4 MDG Goals (Net enrollment ration in primary grades, Grade 5 survival rate, Eliminate gender disparity in primary education, halve the population of people without safe water.) and on track in only one (reduce by 2/3 under-five mortality rates) Although he took issue with the finding about elimination of gender disparity in primary education. He feels that statistics may not have reflected it, but that RMI is on-track in that area. Of the 9 countries listed in the chart, RMI was tied with the Solomon islands for having the worst results.

A slide on Health expenditures was also discussed and it was noted that off-island referrals (tertiary) is eating a hugely disproportionate percentage (65%) of funding with prevention (primary) getting only 15% and Secondary Care (20%).

The suicide rate was also shockingly high: 60 for 2003 (that is combined attempted and completed suicides).

### **3. ADB Consultations on Youth Skills:**

**Stewart Hadfield**, Team Leader, Public Expenditure Management, Participatory Budgeting Specialist (from New Zealand)

**Charles G. Kick, III** PHD, Social Development Specialist (from US – living in Philippines)

**Colleen Taylor**, Youth Policy Specialist (Canadian)

The consultants met with WAM. They were very positive and interested in what WAM can offer in training and life skills. They want to continue dialogue. Dennis said he made it clear that NGOs are interested in being in on the ground floor with regard to policy making plans. Dennis focused on the positive during the meeting demonstrating what WAM has to offer. He suggested that we need to push for funding of existing programs. They were supportive.

The consultants also met with the board and staff of Youth to Youth in Health. It was in informal interview. Giff focused on what Youth to Youth can bring to the table: work in the areas of HIV AIDs, teen pregnancy, suicide and substance abuse. He told the consultants that Youth to Youth has a need for capacity building. Right now the board members are keeping it moving, but for long term sustainability they need a paid Director and Financial person on board. Youth to Youth expressed a need for funding for a Trainer from off island and a local counterpart.

Marie reported on the meeting that she went to. She said that Colleen (one of the ADB Consultants) gave a briefing of their findings and discussed the symptoms of youth issues and some of the root causes. She spoke of the importance of attacking the root issues to achieve sustainable change. Marie noted that she and Emi were the only stakeholders at the meeting that spoke up. It was also noted that Linda (who is presently working at the Women's Training Center) will be transferred to the Youth Coordinator position at IA.

Colleen and Marie also had an informal conversation in which they discussed the lack of focus on children's rights at IA. They do have the adoption agency going, but that seems to be the full extent of their current activity.

It was also noted that Steve Pollard is clearly strongly encouraging the ADB consultants to include us in the process. Marie noted that program evaluation is an important area. She would like to see NGO's as watchdogs with an evaluation arm, increasing their expertise in performance budgeting with clear assessable objectives.

Dennis noted that it is not clear if The ADB Consultants will be recommending a loan or a TA for the Youth Project. Dennis feels that the more extensive financial support of a loan is what is needed, that it's time to go beyond funding pilots and fund a program.

The general consensus, as expressed by Giff, was that we all need to keep working hard with these consultants to encourage them and inject good ideas into their planning process. We need to be a part – lobby, and drop into their office.

#### **4. ADB Consultation on Women's Training, Marketing & Information Center:**

It was clearly communicated to us that this is a **government center** run by a government department and they see their primary role as operating a venue. They offered to rent us the space as needed for trainings, as long as the trainings met their criteria of helping women and youth. It was noted that the space lacked air condition and accommodate 40 people. We do not anticipate extensive interface between MICNGOs and this venue.

#### **5. SOPAC/EU Consultation:**

They are doing a project called "Reducing Vulnerability of Pacific ACP States". It is a 3 year project and is already underway. Their primary focus is on collecting data and developing a plan for the future, but they also plan on doing a pilot project of some kind.

They are focused on these areas:

- Aggregate management – sand and gravel for construction
- Fresh Water – supply and sanitation
- Hazard assessment and risk mitigation
  - Typhoon
  - Flooding
  - Drought
  - Pollution (solid waste)
  - Coastal Erosion

Marie noted that they are working on seabed mapping and GIS, GPS & IT.

Dennis noted that at the meeting the fresh water lense problem in Laura was mentioned as an area that could use their help. Dennis noted that people at the meeting seemed to feel like Majuro was already too messed up to fix, so let's work on Arno or somewhere instead but Dennis has a more positive perspective on the possibilities for improvements in Majuro.

Marie found out that the Government has recommended that they do their pilot in Arno but Dennis and Marie feel that the project should be in Majuro, because there are the most problems in Majuro. Marie noted that Arno has too many projects going on at once already.

**6. Barbados Plan of Action Document:** Our comments on this document are due very soon. By Monday, Dennis will draft up a response and we will all comment by Friday of next week.

**7. Biodiversity Report:** We missed the opportunity to make a comment on this report.

**8. EU:** It is noted that Bruce Bilimon the Director of OIDA (Office of International Development Assistance, under the Ministry of Finance) is our new government liaison for the EU situation. My notes are real hazy on this, but I think somebody is coming in December from the EU office in Fiji and Giff said that after this person comes we need to be the SQUEEKY WHEEL and do whatever follow-up possible to see this funding move forward.

**9. EPA Management Questionnaire:** Marie and Kaylyn will draft a response next Friday and distribute for comment.

## **Other Business**

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Dennis agreed to email everyone the Final Report on the Truancy Project.

Marie would like to ask everyone to pay their 2004 dues before the end of 2004.

The meeting came to a rather abrupt conclusion at the record-breaking hour of 11:00 am.

**Marshall Islands Council of NGO's**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday 01-13-05**

---

A. Roll Call. Present: Marie Maddison (WUTMI), Dennis Alessio and Alson Kelen (WAM), Michael Jenkins (AKTS.inc), and Terry Sasser (Mission Pacific). Quorum Met.

New members Anne Parry and Amy Issacson from Coop School.

B. Minutes of Last Meeting. Minutes from the last MICNOS meeting had been previously circulated but were not yet adopted.

C. New agenda items for this meeting. (1) Welcoming of new members from Coop. (2) Briefing new members of scope of mission of MICNGO's, and brief projects review. (3) Election of new officers.

D. Reports.

Secretary's Report. No report requested or given.

Treasurer's Report. No report requested or given

E. Calendar of Events. No discussion on this item

F. Programs. MICNGOs has no on-going programs at this time.

G. Projects.

(1) EU. Brief update: New liaison noted, one Julie (last name not available) in Fiji. There has been an email exchange between Julie and Bruce Bilimon, who is the RMI contact point.

(2) Small Grants Program (SGP). The EPA questionnaire on long range planning has been rescheduled. This questionnaire is related to the SGP.

(3) Asian Development Bank Projects. It was noted that the Truancy Survey project has been successfully closed out. It was also noted that there should be sufficient funds remaining to have the project audited. Doing such would aid the Council with the development of funding. Members failed to move of this discussion.

The ADB Youth Life Skills project was briefly discussed. The Council will express active interest in being a part of this initiative.

(4) Rethinking Education in Micronesia. A query was made as to the availability of funding for making a DVD from footage of the conference taken by Mission Pacific. Very strong support from the council was noted. Members agreed to bring up this

question with funding sources. It was also noted that in the future we should be proactive to ensure that costs for multi-media should be written into proposals.

- (5) New Zealand Aid. It was noted that small grants of up to \$2,500 are available. Following brief discussion the Council supported the writing of a proposal by Mission Pacific to be submitted through MICNGOs for developing networking resources (professional cards, logo, letterhead, etc) for MICNGOs. Mission Pacific would serve as subcontractor to MICNGOs (@ \$2,000) should an award of \$2,500.
- (6) The upcoming Pacific Education Conference was discussed. This is a U.S. Affiliated region wide annual conference which will be hosted by the RMI this July, circa 07/12 – 07/15. The venue is currently located @ the middle school. The theme is “Raising Our Children Raising Our Standards.” It is not clear if the Council wants to be included.
- (7) The Graham study on gender bias against women in the RMI was discussed.
- (8) The Fund of the North Pacific was discussed.

H. Other Items. Betty Jibke from AKTS.inc was elected Treasurer. Amy Issacson from Coop School was elected Secretary.

I. Next Meeting. Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday February 3<sup>rd</sup> 2005 @ 9:30 at our regular location.

**Marshall Islands Council of NGO's  
Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** 2/3/05 **Time:** 9:30am

---

A. Roll Call. Present: Amy, Anne, Marie, Terry, Kaylyn, Mike, Alson, Emi, Betty  
Absent: Dennis, Giff  
Quorum Met: Yes  
Visitors Noted: Jim Hicklin, Upward Bound

B. President's Report.

- Other agenda items accepted.
- Move on to standing agenda (items C – I)

C. Secretary's Report.

- Minutes from the last MICNGOS meeting circulated by email.
- Discussion on minutes
- Move to Adopt Minutes, minutes adopted.

D. Treasure's Report.

- Since this was the Treasurer's first meeting, there was no Treasurer's Report. We will have one next month.

E. Projects.

- (1) Asian Development Bank project(s). Stewart Hadfield, Colleen Taylor and Kellie May presented an overview on ADB's preparations for the Youth Social Services Project. They requested that MICNGOs assist by finding 4-10 facilitators for focus groups and advise ADB on wage and per diem amounts. Concerns were expressed about observance of traditional taboos and appropriateness (particularly on outer islands). Suggestions were made that the ADB team involve the Iroj, Alaps, school leaders and health assistants on the islands they visit. Mike suggested that MICNGOs offer ADB a partnership on this project with a per-day fee. Mike will draft this proposal and circulate it among MICNGOs members for approval. Terry, Marie and Emi will attend the project steering committee meeting on 2/3/05 to discuss MICNGOs involvement.
- (2) Australian Aid projects
- (3) European Union project - No new news.
- (4) Fund of the North Pacific. David Roth passed us by and went to Pohnpei. He might be coming back to Majuro to meet with us.

- (5) Small Grants Program (SGP). The sub-regional meeting has been postponed to the last week of March.
- (6) Rethinking Education in Micronesia- Emi and Jill received the remaining balance for the conference and another \$4,000 (originally for research, now re-directed) which brings the budget to about \$9,000. Per Hilda, these funds can be used for production of conference materials (a video). The other option would be use it to do follow up activities to the REIM.  
Movement to subcontract Mission Pacific to produce this video was passed. Terry has “artistic license” for selection of video content and footage.
- (7) New Zealand Aid- Terry and Mike are working on this.
- (8) UNESCO projects- World Heritage RFP in the Journal had a due date of 2/1/05. Marie will check to see if the deadline can be extended.

#### H. Other Items.

- 1) Mike introduced this new Minutes Template to facilitate the table of contents for our Annual Report.
- 2) Kaylyn suggested that MICNGOs stay involved in the Disaster Management planning process and incorporate suggestions into future projects.
- 3) Marie will re-circulate the EPA questionnaire. She will involve Jill because she has been involved in the Hazard Training all week.
- 4) Terry will be traveling 2/11-2/21 to the CDC in Atlanta.
- 5) Emi might be attending training off-island 2/28-3/23.
- 6) Terry has a PEC meeting today and will update MICNGOs members via email.
- 7) Alson is representing MICNGOs to the planning committee meetings for the visit of the Taiwan’s Naval Academy ships. He is working on reserving the Payless parking lot for martial arts demonstrations.
- 8) Emi requested a letter to David Roth (Occidental College) in response to his requests for lists of funding needs. Mike suggested that MICNGOs send a letter of support of Youth to Youth’s request for construction funding.

#### I. Next Meeting.

- Next meeting is scheduled for \_\_\_\_3/3/05\_\_\_\_ at \_9:30am
- Move to adjourn 11:55am.

## Marshall Islands Council of NGOs

### Meeting Minutes

Date: March 3, 2005

Time: 9:50 – 2:00pm

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#### A. Roll Call:

- ✓ Present: *Marie, Betty, Alson, Michael, Dennis, Kaylyn, Terry, Anne*
- ✓ Absent: *Youth-to-Youth in Health*
- ✓ Quorum Met: *YES*
- ✓ Visitors Noted: *Colleen Taylor, Stewart Hadfield, Stephen Pollard (ADB); Steve Why (CMI/Marshall Islands Conservation Society)*

#### B. President's Report:

- ✓ Other agenda items accepted: *ADB Report*
- ✓ Move on to standing agenda (items C – I)

#### C. Secretary's Report:

- ✓ Minutes from the last MICNGOS meeting (2/3/05) circulated by email.
- ✓ Discussion on minutes: *see Kaylyn's requested correction under G-(8)*
- ✓ Move to Adopt Minutes, *minutes adopted.*

#### D. Treasurer's Report:

- ✓ Status on members' dues: *current.*
- ✓ Banking amount at last meeting: *see Profit & Loss Statement for 1/1/05-3/3/05 – proposed adopting monthly/bimonthly cycle; discussed reserving 5% for audit fees and 1% for admin fees. Balance after fees from \$11,301 total income = \$1-2k.*
- ✓ Changes in budget or banking: *proposal to add 2 more officers (Mike & Anne) as other signatories for checks, in addition to Marie and Alson - adopted.*
- ✓ Other Treasury issues (checks ordered, reconciliation/audit activity, training activity, etc): *UNESCO funds will pay for Mission Pacific video of Rethinking Education Conference.*
- ✓ Move to accept Treasurer's Report, *report accepted.*

#### G. Projects. MICNGOs has interest or involvement in 5 projects at this time.

##### (1) Asian Development Bank project(s):

- ✓ *All NGO Exec. Council members urged to attend ADB NGO hearing at Capitol Building Friday March 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm.*
- ✓ *See ADB TA-4229-RMI "Preparing Youth Social Services Project" & MICNGOs Contract Agreement & Terms of Reference for 1) Background & Objectives; 2) Responsibilities of MICNGOs; 3) Tasks for Community Facilitators; 4) Fees for Services; and 5) Payment Procedure.*
- ✓ *Also see related MI Journal article (3/3/05) "Ebeye Speaks Out on Youth Issues."*
- ✓ *3-hour discussion on ADB project goals & objectives;*
- ✓ *ADB team will be leaving Majuro on March 24<sup>th</sup>, after delivering Interim Report to gov't, Project Steering Committee (UNDP/Emi Chutaro), and MICNGOs; will return in May to get feedback and design project.*

- ✓ *National Youth Policy Framework will target 4 areas: 1) Livelihoods (education & employment); 2) Service Delivery (drug abuse prevention); 3) Leisure (Recreation & Arts); 4) Capacity Building.*
  - ✓ *ADB Participatory Budgeting Training in Suva April 12-13<sup>th</sup> – ADB will pay for 2 MICNGOs members to go: 1) Betty, and 2) Kaylyn ; Anne alternate.*
- (2) Australian Aid projects: *no news.*
- (3) European Union project:
- ✓ *Dennis will forward email from Bruce Bilimon re: Calendar of Implementation.*
- (4) Fund of the North Pacific: *no news.*
- (5) Small Grants Program (SGP):
- ✓ *Dennis will attend the Global Environmental Facility's (UNDP) 3<sup>rd</sup> Overall Performance Study conference in Fiji at the end of March. MICNGOs will host the next conference at the end of June. Yumi/EPPSO supports keeping this effort NGO-managed.*
- (6) Rethinking Education in Micronesia:
- ✓ *Terry declined to edit video alone – prefers using a Selection Committee, that would include Emi who was present for entirety of Conference, to show involvement of MICNGOs.*
- (7) New Zealand Aid: *no news.*
- (8) UNESCO projects:
- ✓ *Concern over how UNESCO application was advertised after deadline, and how EPA Biodiversity Officer approached certain organizations. Kaylyn also requested correction to last month's minutes to state: "Marie will check to see if deadline can be extended."*

#### H. Other Items:

- ✓ *Marie/President Note requested comments on UN Resolutions (due 3/4/05) – all are standard and adopted by most nations, and funding usually follows adoption: all moved to adopt.*
- ✓ *Steve Why (247-2725) (CMI/Marshall Islands Conservation Society) presented his application to join MICNGOs – see brochure. Other board members include Don Hess and Deb Barker – requested by-laws; has applied for funding from Japan Grassroots, NOAA, and the National Fish & Wildlife Society. Kaylyn suggested the additional environmental expertise would be welcome at Hazardous Mitigation Planning meetings.*

#### I. Next Meeting:

- ✓ Next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday 4/7/05 at MIR at 9:30am**

**Marshall Islands Council of NGOs**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Date: April 7, 2005**

**Time: 9:30 – 12:00pm**

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**B. Roll Call:**

- ✓ Present: *Marie, Alson, Michael, Kaylyn, Terry (last 1/2 hour)*
- ✓ Absent: *Co-op School, Youth-to-Youth in Health*
- ✓ Quorum Met: *YES*
- ✓ Visitors Noted: *Tim O’Meara (ADB Consultant);*

**B. President’s Report:**

- ✓ There is a Planting conference coming on April 11. We will receive an invitation. It is regarding planning local plants and is partially funded by matching grants from USDA. Youth to Youth and WUTMI are involved.
- ✓ An HIV/Aides Workshop is coming up on April 18, 19, & 20th

**C. Secretary’s Report:**

- ✓ *Minutes from the last MICNGOs meeting (3/3/05) circulated by email.*
- ✓ *It was discussed that the minutes are skipping the letter “F” . Minutes should be adjusted so that Projects is “F” instead of “G”, Other Items is “G” instead of H., etc.*
- ✓ Michael moved to Adopt Minutes, *minutes adopted.*

**D. Treasurer’s Report:**

- ✓ There was no official treasure’s report as treasure was absent.
- ✓ It is noted that MICNGOs has received payment from ADB for the Youth Project. \$2,100 was received; the breakdown by NGO is:

NGO	Amount
Mission Pacific	\$625
Youth to Youth	\$500
WAM	\$125
WUTMI	\$475
AKTS Inc.	\$375
Total	\$2,100

Additional details on the dollars spent by ADB in connection with identification and administration of Project Facilitators was distributed at the meeting and is available upon request.

- ✓ As agreed in a previous meeting, each NGO has 30 days to claim their portion of the ADB Payment. Otherwise the money will go to MICNGOs general needs.

- ✓ AKTS Inc. will leave their portion to MICNGOs with the provision that \$350 of it is designated for contracting someone to write an Executive Summary (for the one year period of Oct. 1, 2003 – Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>, 2004) and oversee the development of an Organizational Manual. Kaylyn expressed interest in taking on this job and Michael is going to draft up a contract.
- ✓ Kaylyn asked for a copy of the Balance Sheet for the books – explaining that it was important to receive this document. It is the only way to tell how much is actually in the MICNGOs account. For example, the profit and loss sheet submitted last meeting could have income listed that has not been received.

**E. Programs. MICNGOs has interest or involvement in ? programs at this time.**

- ✓ *It was decided to request an update from Jill on the QuickBooks training.*
- ✓ *It was noted that the use of staff from local NGOs as Project Facilitators for the ADB Youth Project was excellent for local capacity building. 11 individual staff members were involved from 5 MICNGOs executive member NGOs. Each received several days of training in how to facilitate the workshops in a participatory manner. They also gained actual experience as they led workshop in Majuro, Ebeye, Jaluit, and Wotje.*

**F. Projects. MICNGOs has interest or involvement in 9 projects at this time.**

(1) Asian Development Bank project(s):

- ✓ *Truancy Project: The project is completed and awaits an audit. As a follow-up we should make sure that the truancy findings are incorporated in social services program and make a formal request to be involved on the steering committee of National Vocational Training Institute, NVTI (director of that program is Clarence Samuel).*
- ✓ *ADB TA-4229-RMI “Preparing Youth Social Services Project”*  
*(1)Phase I: we have completed participation in Phase I and have received payment.*  
*(2) Phase II is strategic development and it was indicated in the report that MICNGOs will be involved.*
- ✓ *ADB: TA-38593-RMI “Increasing Ownership and Effective Demand for Improved Education” (1) Tim O’Meara spoke about the project giving some background and a general idea of the purpose of the project which is to see a clear demonstration of broad stakeholder commitment to reform either by saying it in public or by doing something. They are planning a public forum in August. (see Addendum 1 for more detail.) (2) Tim announced that Marie Madison has been selected to monitor the project. She will be monitoring the outcomes both during and after the project, including Quarterly Reporting. Her role will not be limited to monitoring, but she will also advise the consultants during the process.*
- ✓ *ADB TAR-37296-1 “Pilot Project on Institutionalizing Civil-Society Participation to Create Pro-poor Budgets.” ADB has contacted Ministry of Finance requesting No Objection paperwork for this regional TA. Once this is received the TA may start up very quickly. The TA calls for the hiring of a Regional NGO with expertise*

*in Participatory Budgeting to oversee the project which will take place in Pakistan, Indonesia, and RMI. This Regional NGO will then subcontract some of the work to one or more local NGOs.*

- ✓ *ADB Participatory Budgeting Training in Suva April 14th – Betty and Kaylyn will be attending.*

(2) Australian Aid projects: *no news.*

(3) European Union – CSS Improved Education & Renewable Energy project:

- ✓ *MICNGOs acknowledged receipt of the “final draft, revision 1” of the Financing Proposal from EU. This proposal is for \$500,000 to be set aside for NGO activity in the RMI. This is a part of the Country Support Strategy (CSS). (1) The proposal looks very favorable for NGOs. (2) We do have a question about the third paragraph in Section 12.3 Implementation procedures and timetable. We plan to ask for clarification in our meeting with EU representatives. (3) EU representatives Julie Sutherland and Cherie Chapman have requested a meeting with MICNGOs. Julie will be in RMI the April 20 – April 21<sup>st</sup> and Cherie from April 20<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>. [The meeting was delayed due to an unfortunate accident during travel of the EU Representatives.]*

(4) Fund of the North Pacific: *nothing new. It was noted that this fund could be used for mating funds with SEG. Occidental College is seeking funding from them.*

(5) Pacific Education Conference (PEC): *It was noted that Terry Sasser is the Media Chairman in the organizing committee.*

(6) Small Grants Program (SGP) [UNDP, Global Environmental Facility]:

- ✓ *3-day sub-regional workshop was held form 29-31 March 2005. Minutes distributed. Decisions need to be made by National Focal Group on whether to use MICNGOs as the lead NGO agency for implementation of GEF plans/awards. Members are yet to be approved by UN GEF-SGP. National Strategy & Budget need to be finalized and forwarded.*
- ✓ *Dennis is representing us on the National Focal Group.*

(7) Rethinking Education in Micronesia: *Video Tape work remains. Hilda is asking for rough copies of the conference proceedings.*

(8) New Zealand Aid: *no news.*

(9) UNESCO projects: *no news*

(10) US - DOI Project:

- ✓ *Doctor Bush Project: (1) Jill of WAM is presently revising the proposal. (2) The purpose of the project was reviewed. Dr. Bush has extensive NGO experience. This project would be a preliminary visit to do planning. Michael stated that Dr. Bush basically “inspires NGOs to be all that they can be.” (3) The budget was reviewed. Michael suggested that at least 10% of the total budget should come to local NGO’s. As a result we revised the local consultant line item from \$3,000 to \$3,700.*

*We also wanted to put something in to build up MICNGOs assets, so we added \$5,000 to the Equipment line item for the purpose of purchasing a Xerox Workstation. (We also increase our in-kind contribution on the equipment line item from \$2,000 to \$5,000 for a computer work station.) (4) Kaylyn moved that we go forward on the project with the financial changes as discussed. Alson seconded the motion. Motion was carried.*

**G. Other Items:**

- ✓ *EPA Environmental Education Guide – there will be funding for the development of this guide. Lilla from EPA will be calling for proposals. This will be overseen by the Coastal Management and Development Workgroup. Marie and Alson are part of the steering committee.*
- ✓ *MICNGOs Membership: Application of Marshall Islands Conservation Society was tabled for next meeting. We have not yet received their by-laws.*

**H. Next Meeting:**

- ✓ Next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday 5/6/05 at MIR at 9:30am**

**Addendum #1: ADB: TA-38593-RMI**  
**“Increasing Ownership and Effective Demand for Improved Education”**

At the MICNGOs meeting on April 7, 2005, Tim O’Meara spoke about the project giving some background and a general idea of the purpose of the project as well as engaging in dialogue with MICNGOs members. Here are some notes from the proceedings.

**Background**

- Past projects have ended up with little if anything to show for their work 10 years later.
- There has not been broad based support, so change of administration has eliminated the reform.

**Selection of Education**

- We wanted to start with a trackable segment. We concluded that was education. There is already a move toward reform in education.
- We want to make this a pilot of Public Sector Reform
- Many issues and options will be unique to education. Others will be common to other parts of the Government.

**Purpose**

- We are exploring a new approach. We want to see a clear demonstration of broad stakeholder commitment to reform, either by saying it in public or doing something (sweat equity).
- Forum in August for Public Agreement.

**Issues Identified**

- Management issues
- Right now 15% of teachers are expatriate.
- Issues around the lack of standardized testing was identified.
- PSC issues.
- Tim said he was not released to discuss further findings at this time, but that more actual facts will be shared at the next Chamber of Commerce meeting.

**Methods:**

- We want to talk to stakeholders and work through issues and options.

**Outcomes**

- We are working towards a big meeting and commitment in public. Some desired outcomes meeting are:
  - Agreement on Issues
  - Agreement on Solution
  - Agreement on Who will Do What.
- More ADB assistance is another possible output. It would be in the form of a TA designed by stakeholders. (Not a loan.)

Dialogue between Tim and MICNGOs members:

- Michael mentioned that he would like to see clear recognition of the NGO voice at the Public Meeting. A meeting where NGOs will not be shouted down, as has been the case in the past. He would also like to see the NGO voice given individual time, separate from the Government and others.
- It was suggested that there should be a clear delineation of the mission of the Ministry of Education.
  - In particular the scope of the mission of MOE should be defined.
  - There should be a delineation of the role.
- What are the protections to see that all get heard?
- It was suggested that Vocational Training might be better handled outside of MOE.
- A Certificate Program for Vocational Training was suggested.
- Achievement tests were discussed. It was noted that Coop and Assumption use the Stanford Achievement Tests (SAT).
- The tests given by MOE are not standard with other Pacific Countries or other Regions. This makes the data difficult to compare with other data. In effect, we don't know what the test means.
- Tim mentioned that he favored tackling the issue of Adult Illiteracy.
- Publication in the Newspaper: It was mentioned that as far as follow-up on outcomes and on follow-through there is no "stick" except the press.

Other Points:

- Tim mentioned that he would be here until May 2<sup>nd</sup>, then he will be back the 1<sup>st</sup> week of July.

# **Regional Workshop on the Asian Development Bank's Performance Based Allocation of Asian Development Fund Resources**

**DRAFT**

## **Executive Summary:**

ADB gives loans at very low interest (1-1.5%) to developing member countries (DMC). These loans come out of an instrument called the Asian Development Fund (ADF). ADF IX will be from 2005 – 2008 and has \$7 Billion.

The ADB allocates that money to different countries based on a complicated set of criteria combining need, performance, and other factors. For ADF IX, Pacific Member Developing Nations (PMDCs) have their own separate pool of \$240 million (\$60 million per year).

ADB would like to see NGOs participate in the Country Performance Assessments. ADB will be disclosing the numerical scores on the CPA's 17 performance criteria – information that was previously confidential. They will not, however, be disclosing details from the Country Performance Assessments or numerical scores to individual questions within each criteria. This disclosure will start in 2006 (probably in August) when they will disclose the results from the 2005 CPAs.

## **Background:**

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) makes different kinds of loans. They make market rate loans and concessionary loans. Market rate loans are made to developed nations and they are charged the same interest that a commercial bank would charge them for the loans. ADB makes a profit on these loans. Concessionary loans are only made to Developing Member Countries (DMC). Concession means something that is discounted or cheap. So concessionary loans are much cheaper than the international market rate. DMC can borrow money from the ADB with the following terms.

- Total Loan is for 40 years
- First 8 years is the grace period and only 1% interest is charged. Countries just pay that 1% interest during that time.
- For the remaining 32 years the country pays off the capital and is charged 1.5% interest.

The profit made by the market rate loans helps to finance the concessionary loans. The concessionary loans are also funded by contributions from countries that are Donor Share Holders. There are 32 Donor Share Holders which include USA, Japan, Great Britain and Australia.

According to the Country Strategy and Program Update, since RMI joined ADB in 1990 it has received **\$78.1 million in loans** and **\$17.15 million in TAs**. [RMI Financials for 2002 indicate that the debt level was then about \$58 million for the Primary Government and \$30 million in loans to Component Unites (like NTA and MEC). That makes a total of \$88 million 2002. A recent article in the journal stated that the RMI debt is \$100 million.]

## **Asian Development Fund IX (ADF IX):**

The Asian Development Fund is the instrument used to finance concessionary loans, grants, and TA's. Every four years there is a meeting and a new ADF is started – the rules for allocation and accessibility are reviewed and revised and the amounts available are established. Right now we are in **ADF IX which is in place from 2005 – 2008. \$7 Billion** will be available for ADF operations during that time frame. Since the total population of the DMC countries is 700 million people, that works out to **\$2.5 per capita per annum**.

The ADF is partially funded from the money that countries are paying back from past loans. The ADF could sustain a budget of \$3.5 billion during the ADF IX period, but because Donor Nations have made additional contributions, the ADF is able to operate at a level of \$7 Billion. This \$3.5 Billion that the donor nations have contributed appear to be coming from the tax payers in their respective countries.

All the DMC's compete for ADF dollars except the **Pacific Developing Member Countries** (Pacific Developing Member Countries). PDMC's have a certain amount from within the ADF set aside from them, so they compete among themselves, but not with the other larger countries. **The ADF IX set aside for PDMC's is \$240 million**. This works out to \$60 million per year, about **\$10 per capital per annum**, as compared with \$2.5 for the DMCs as a whole.

There are 3 levels in the allocation process.

- Level 1: Population, Per Capita Income and Country Performance determine the allocation number.
- Level 2: Attenuation of Abrupt changes (“collar”), absorptive capacity constraints, and exceptional circumstances are considered.
- Level 3 Country specific performance assessments (triggers) are factored in.

## **Country Performance Assessments:**

**Country Performance** is determined by the **Country Performance Assessment (CPA)**. A CPA is “an assessment of a country's policy and institutional performance against specific criteria and benchmarks.”

There are 4 Performance Clusters plus Portfolio Management.

1. Economic Management
  2. Structural Policies
  3. Policies for social inclusion/equity
  4. Public Sector management and institutions
- Portfolio Performance

Each Performance Clusters has a number of criteria.

1. Economic Management
  - Macroeconomic management (monetary and exchange rate policies)
  - Fiscal Policy
  - Debt Management
2. Structural Policies
  - Trade

- Financial Sector
- Business Environment
- 3. Policies for social inclusion/equity
  - Gender equality
  - Equity of public expenditures
  - Building human resources
  - Social protection and labor
  - Policies and institutions for environmental sustainability
- 4. Public Sector management and institutions
  - Property rights and rules-based governance
  - Quality of budgetary and financial management
  - Efficiency and equity of revenue mobilization
  - Quality of public administration
  - Transparency, accountability and corruption in the public sector
- Portfolio Performance
  - Based on how well the country is managing it's ADB loans and TAs

Each criteria is scored between 1 and 6 (6 being the best). The scores of the criteria under each performance cluster are averaged to get the performance cluster score. Then the scores of the first 3 clusters are averaged to get the “Economic and Social Policies and Institutions score.

Then the following three scores are given certain percentage of weight for the final score:

- Economic and Social Policies and Institutions – 30%
- Public Sector Management and institutions – 55%
- Portfolio Performance – 15%

The final score is then calculated and becomes the **Country Performance Score**.

We were given a copy of the Assessment Questionnaire 2004 It goes into great detail on the process of assessment and also lists all the questions that are used. Please let me know if anyone wants a copy.

In 2006 the numerical scores for all the CPIA criteria for the 2005 assessment will be made public as well as the overall score. The scores of individual questions, will however remain confidential.

There is an additional and separate process where country specific performance assessments are performed. The findings of these assessments is also factored into the allocation process, but they did not go into any detail on how this process works at the seminar.

“The PBA allocations are reported in Country Strategy Program Updates (CPSUs). The CPSUs provide the link between CPAs and the country planning process.” The CPSUs are public documents and can be easily accessed on the ADB website.

## Country Allocations:

The following list shows how the ADF IX is divided up. The percentages are approximations but they give a general idea on how the funds are distributed.

### Uses of Funds

- Country Pools (Pacific and Others) (3.4% - \$60 million/yr)
- Country Allocations (71.6% - \$1,253 million/yr)
- Sub-regional Cooperation (5% - \$88 million/yr)
- Post conflict support (15% - \$263 million/yr)
  - Afghanistan (post-conflict reconstruction and peace)
  - Indonesia
- Special Allocations
  - Disaster relief does not have a set aside, they try to find the \$\$ from unused loan allocations
- Technical Assistance (3% - \$53 million/yr)
- HIV/AIDS and communicable diseases (2% - \$35 million/yr)

Grants: ADF IX includes a mixture of loans and grants in the country allocations. They have included grants to help the poorest, debt distressed and post conflict countries. RMI does not qualify for grants under the present criteria. A debt distressed country is one that is at risk of defaulting on their loans if they borrow more money. Debt distress is caused by a combination of factors including a high level of debt and weakness in the area of governance and fiscal management. The only PDMCs that qualify for these grants at the present time are Timor-Leste and Solomon Islands.

### NGO Role:

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- The ADB reps. acknowledge that NGOs are a rich repository of knowledge on which it is important for them to draw on and that they can use the help of our in-country expertise.
- I told the group about our positive experience in involvement with a regional NGO for the current Youth Project TA. The other NGOs expressed a desire that this sort of arrangement be extended in their countries as well.
- An ADB representative based in Suva mentioned that there is an NGO unit at ADB and they do have trust funds that make grants to NGOs. She promised to email us all information about these grants. She said they have had very few proposals from the Pacific.

**Marshall Islands Council of NGO's  
Meeting Minutes**

**Date: May 5, 2005**

**Time: 9:30am**

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**A. Roll Call:**

- ✓ Present: Marie, Alson, Betty, Dennis, Kaylyn, Terry, Anne
- ✓ Absent: YTYIH
- ✓ Quorum Met: YES
- ✓ Visitors Noted: none

**B. President's Report:**

- ✓ Call for new agenda:

- 1) RMI National Self-Assessment on Global Environmental Management.
- 2) Desk-based study – Labor Market Reform – TOR.
- 3) Marie has CD copies of EIA of Dry Dock Workshop info = 1-day workshop with USP = \$40 tuition – for Action Research & Data Collection.
- 4) 30-day comment period until June 2<sup>nd</sup> 5pm – public hearing to be held prior for which MICNGOs will need to submit comments.
- 5) Carl Hacker (EPPSO) requested yearbook stats for individual NGO stats – send to: [planning@ntamar.net](mailto:planning@ntamar.net)

**C. Secretary's Report:**

- ✓ Minutes from the last MICNOS meeting (4/7/05) circulated by email on 4/29/05
- ✓ Move to Adopt Minutes.

**D. Treasurer's Report:**

- ✓ See MICNGOs January 2004 – June 2005 Profit & Loss Budget & Balance Sheet (dated 5/5/05).
- ✓ Account on hold until signatories confirmed = Marie, Alson, Michael, Anne need to go to BOMI to sign signature cards ASAP.
- ✓ REIM DVD accepted without complaints - \$9k will be paid to Mission Pacific.
- ✓ Treasurer's Report adopted.

**E. Programs: MICNGOs has **2 on-going programs** at this time.**

- Calendar of Training Events: Kaylyn will check with Jill to plan next QuickBooks Training – TBA.
- CD available of “Facilitating Behavior Change” for HIV Workshops (from ?) = useful training tool for how to change behavior: pre-knowledge > knowledge > change.

**F. Projects: MICNGOs has interest or involvement in **9 projects** at this time.**

- (1) Asian Development Bank projects:

- ✓ *see Kaylyn's report attached re: Performance-based Allocation Training in Fiji.*
  - ✓ *ADB Youth Training project returned to Majuro 2<sup>nd</sup> week in May with very damning reports.*
- (2) Australian Aid projects: no news.
- (3) European Union project:
- ✓ There is apparently no one in Europe to represent RMI – Bruce Bilimon says rep from New Guinea will be available to help.
  - ✓ New Director for Center for Development Enterprise very helpful.
  - ✓ Proposed meeting with MICNGOs & EU reps (Julie & Cherie Chapman in Fiji?) to discuss \$230k for proposals, \$89k for MICNGOs.
- (4) Fund of the North Pacific: no news.
- (5) Pacific Education Conference:
- ✓ Terry met with MOE – very far behind in planning. MOE is too busy with other projects, and there is no budget for PEC. To be held at MIHS in gym and middle school for break-out sessions. MICNGOs presentation from Mission Pacific on reading lab & Marshallese phonetics projects (with DVDs forthcoming).
- (6) Small Grants Program (SGP)/ GEF:
- ✓ Yumi, Marie & Dennis working on grant for National Focal Group with Churches = Jude Samson, Mike Kabua & Eldon Note. Next group meeting to strategize & budget \$150k for first year (while already 4 months into year). The more projects that can be done successfully = more funds for admin.
  - ✓ Approval Committee voting process – MICNGOS has 5 votes, churches have 1 vote each, CMI 1 vote, USP 1 vote, Chamber of Commerce 1 vote, MALGOV 1 vote.
  - ✓ National Focal Group needs to meet on process. Marie, Yumi & Dennis are serving as Development Committee.
  - ✓ **REMEMBER THE DATE: SEPT. 2005** to receive proposals in 5 subcategories for \$150k (funding could double or triple). ... capacity building for MICNGOs for strong community foundation – could be a 20-year program with 3-year project budgets.
  - ✓ Need to recruit National Focal Person for part-time administration of project.
- (7) Rethinking Ed in Micronesia:
- ✓ DVD is done. Terry needs more info from PREL on what they need, i.e. just notes for their report? PREL got \$26k to deliver report. There was \$6k for publications in the conference budget. If DVDs will be sold, how much to charge? 6-hour DVD = \$100+ per copy plus shipping and handling (as a 40-minute DVD costs \$20). Terry will circulate mass email with PDF trailer = \$120 total for DVD.
  - ✓ DVD is ½ MICNGOs & ½ Mission Pacific property. Marie will forward Terry's concerns over licensing and costs involved (i.e. MICNGOs owns the rights and PREL must purchase the rights to use material). MICNGOs must at least recoup the complete cost of \$9k.

- (8) New Zealand Aid: Dennis was too late in submitting proposal to Amb. Goodman. FY06 begins in July, but not much will be available, as changing priorities to fund regional projects.
- (9) UNESCO: no news.
- (10) US DOI: Dr. Bush, a professor in Indiana, has been invited by Carl Hacker to assist NGO Strategic Planning in RMI with DOI funding through Foreign Affairs, as this is his expertise in the US.

**G. Other Items:**

- ✓ RMI National Self-Assessment on Global Environmental Management – Mission Pacific will add paragraph.
- ✓ Pacific Forum meeting in February 2006. UNIFEM New Zealand says that gender perspective is not represented (see Power Point presentation in email).

**I. Next Meeting:**

- Next meeting is scheduled for **June 2, 2005 at Enra Restaurant. Time: 9:30am.**
- Move to adjourn

**Marshall Islands Council of NGO's  
Meeting Minutes**

**Date: 6-2-05      Time: 9:30am**

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**A. Roll Call**

- ✓ Present: Marie, Mike, Kaylyn, Anne
- ✓ Absent: YTYIH, WAM
- ✓ Quorum Met: yes
- ✓ Visitors Noted: none

**B. Secretary's Report & Notable Correspondence: *(to be housed both electronically and in hard copy with current Secretary at Co-op School, and eventually in electronic archive on MICNGOs website)***

- ✓ Minutes from the last MICNOS meeting circulated
- ✓ Discussion on minutes
- ✓ Move to Adopt Minutes and amend structure – Secretary's Report will precede President's Report
- ✓ Other Secretarial issues:
  - Kaylyn will forward minutes from May 19<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting re: ADB Youth Project.
  - MICS is not eligible to be Executive Council member, as MICNGOs by-laws state that one must be in existence for 4 years and have received funding from multiple sources. Proposal: Monthly MICNGOs meetings should be kept open for transparency and that these monthly meetings stay focused on business and agenda. But we suggest that when Guest and donors are here we should have separate "special" meetings for Executive Council Members only to preserve the integrity of the mission.
  - MICNGOs 2004 Summary Report (Oct/03-Sept/04): The Attorney General's Office has the right to request annual reports – 60 days to respond; will be completed by paid consultant – AKTS.inc contribution will pay for Kaylyn to write.
  - Addressing PREL's/Hilda Heine's response to Mission Pacific letter re: use of REIM raw footage – as we are concerned with our survival as NGOs, and the need to collaborate with other NGOs, we should not be unnecessarily aggressive with other NGOs. Mike will draft response for Marie's approval.
  - Today 5pm is deadline for Drydock comments – Marie will submit for MICNGOs.
  - **Archived Resources** *(to be housed both electronically and in hard copy with current Secretary at Co-op School, and eventually in electronic archive on MICNGOs website):*
    - 1) Action Aid "**Real Aid**" (June 2005) *(electronic/hard copy)*
    - 2) ADB: "**Skills Training & Vocational Education Project**" (May 2005, Lisa King, ADB Loan #1791) *(hard copy only)*

3) ADB: “**Preparing the Youth Social Services Project – Interim Report**”  
(May 2005, TA#4219-RMI) (*electronic/hard copy*)

- ✓ Move to adopt Secretary’s Report

**C. President’s Report:**

- ✓ Call for new agenda. (if accepted, schedule in ‘other items.’)
- ✓ Move on to standing agenda (items C – I)

**D. Treasurer’s Report:**

- ✓ None at this time (Betty is training to be Administrator of new NGO: Rehab & Recovery Options; will move to AKTS.inc Board of Directors)

**E. Programs:** MICNGOs has **1** on-going program at this time:

- ✓ Calendar of Training Events: Kaylyn followed up with Jill, who will do training with AKTS.inc, YTYIH, and new NGO Rehab & Recovery Options for record-keeping and auditing.

**F. Projects:** MICNGOs has interest or involvement in **8** projects at this time:

(1) Asian Development Bank project(s):

ADB Tripartite Review of Youth Social Services was held on Wed. June 1<sup>st</sup> with YTYIH, National Youth Congress, CMI, MICNGOs, ADB & consultants. ADB (Steve Pollard) is agreeable to a) Youth project development, and b) Institutional Strengthening. A Youth Coordinator will be created in ADB office to facilitate service providers such as WAM, YTYIH, and Youth Congress.

ADB will write 2-page policy to send to Cabinet; Chief Secretary will hold more discussions before submitting to Cabinet. Concern that after Grade 3, the drop-out rate increases – need to take inventory of Churches, CMI and NGOs and see what each can do to address this. ADB Youth Project funding will be modeled on “single state agency” model = government funding will contract out to service providers.

(2) Australian Aid projects:

New Australian Ambassador Corinne Tomkinson will present credentials Thurs., June 2<sup>nd</sup>. WUTMI received small human rights grant for abuse prevention, as part of WAVE implementation plan.

(3) European Union project:

See email re: \$500k grant to commence April 2006 (this, as well as MICNGOs, is referred to in EU 2004 Annual Report).

(4) Fund of the North Pacific:

David Roth visit cancelled. He is the Deputy Director of Occidental College – see Yokwe.net for reports on his work with Palau, UN, and North Pacific programs.

(5) Small Grants Program (SGP): received MICNGOs CVs – finalizing strategy. Yumi is designated Chair of Focal Group by Cabinet to work on strategy; grantmaking activities will begin in August 2005 – will receive RFPs. (See 5/19/05 Special Meeting minutes – Kaylyn).

(6) Rethinking Education in Micronesia: Marketing of DVD copies – MP will charge a flat \$100 including postage and handling (postage will vary). Need to determine duplicating costs and how many copies to make, based on how many will sell. Terry will send out ad. MICNGOs has ownership of the set o 4 edited DVDs. Everyone who attended the conference should get a copy = 50 copies. MP will calculate cost of 50-100 copies. MOE could be encouraged to buy 50, as well as PREL (in exchange for raw footage) to cover costs. Ask Carl Hacker if DOI funds can be used to purchase? UNESCO, NZ also contributed to DVD – can they purchase and distribute? MP is taking risk of pre-producing. MICNGOs should get at least 5% of profit on DVD sales.

(7) New Zealand Aid: Visit of Associate Minister from NZ.

(8) UNESCO projects – no news.

**G. Other Items:** This fall, Mike is going to do PhD. Would like to see MICNGOs emerge as a research entity to build on the Truancy Project, as there is a huge need for accurate statistics in the RMI. Ex.: Counselors did suicide, alcohol and substance abuse surveys on 8<sup>th</sup> Graders – needs to be compiled. This can be a real livelihood source – USP always has surplus funding for research.

H. Next Meeting: scheduled for **July 22, 2005 at Enra. Time: 9:30am**

✓ Move to adjourn.

**Marshall Islands Council of NGO's**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Date: 7-22-05      Time: 9:30am**

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**C. Roll Call**

- ✓ Present: Marie, Jill, Mike, Terry, Kaylyn
- ✓ Absent: YTYIH
- ✓ Quorum Met: yes
- ✓ Visitors Noted: Ben Graham

**D. Secretary's Report & Notable Correspondence:**

- ✓ Minutes from the last MICNOS meeting circulated
- ✓ The following changes to the minutes were discussed
  - Under Section B in the second paragraph under "Other Secretarial Issues" it reads: "*Proposal: to keep monthly meetings for Executive Council, but hold quarterly meetings for all NGOs, and Special Meetings for when guests and donors are here; General Council Meetings to address business/agenda only – must be open to guests for transparency; Special Meetings for Exec Council Members only to preserve integrity of mission.*" Please correct to, Proposal: Monthly meetings MICNGOs should be kept open for transparency and that these monthly meetings stay focused on business and agenda. But we suggest that when Guest and donors are here we should have separate "special" meetings for Executive Council Members only to preserve the integrity of the mission.
  - Under Section F (Projects), number 6, it reads " . . . *This is a MP project, but MICNGOs will help distribute . . . MICNGOs will get 5% if any labor required.*" Please correct to: MICNGOs has ownership of the set of 4 edited DVDs. . . . . MICNGOs should get at least 5% of profit on DVD sales.
- ✓ Michael Moved to Adopt Minutes as amended above –Kaylyn seconded.
- ✓ Other Secretarial issues:
  - Kaylyn still needs to forward minutes from May 19<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting re: ADB Youth Project.
  - MICNGOs 2004 Annual Report (Oct/03-Sept/04): Contract to do Annual Report was submitted to Kaylyn Hipple. She request to be paid as an employee of MICNGOs instead of a subcontractor. Request was granted and she will revise the contract and submit it to Marie for approval.

➤ **Archived Resources** (*additional resources – MICNGOs President will forward to secretary*):

- 1) Economic Partnership Agreement Negotiations Pacific ACP-EC (Fourth Pacific ACP National Consultation) – Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands – April 11-15, 2005
- 2) World Bank: Civil Society Collaborations – Progress Report for Fiscal Years 2000-2001 (hard copy - submitted by Ben Graham)
- 3) World Bank: Guide to Resources for NGOs and Other Organizations of Civil Society. “Small Grants Program, Social Development Dept., World Bank International Youth Foundation (hard copy - submitted by Ben Graham)
- 4) World Bank: Working Together – World Bank – Civil Society Relations ©2003 The World Bank (hard copy - submitted by Ben Graham)
- 5) World Bank: Civil Society – Frequently Asked Questions – [web.worldbank.org](http://web.worldbank.org) (hard copy - submitted by Ben Graham)

**C. President’s Report:**

- ✓ Call for new agenda. The following items were added to Other Items:
  - MICNGOs Research Capabilities
  - DOI Research Project
  - ADB Participatory Budgeting Project
- ✓ The Dry Dock situation was mentioned. The Dry Dock will not be in Uliga – so community voiced concerns did have an impact.
- ✓ Marie reviewed a number of emails that she had sent out and some of them had not reached some members. Kaylyn to send Marie an email to Marie’s Yahoo address that includes all MICNGOs members email addresses to make it simpler to forward from that address.
- ✓ One email that people requested was the Kwajalein Surplus List.

**D. Treasurer’s Report:**

- ✓ The bank balance is \$5,375.08. There was not activity in the month of June. A full treasurers report will be delivered later on.
- ✓ MISSA Tax Returns: We need to make sure that a tax return for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters of 2005 was submitted. Copies of these need to go to Marie.
- ✓ MISSA Response: Marie will write a letter to MISSA explaining that we had no employee in 2005 and attach the copies of the filed tax returns.
- ✓ Financial Records: Treasurer, Betty Jibke, is almost finished with the MICNGOs financial binder and will be submitting that to Kaylyn for inclusion in the Annual Report. It will contain records for the past 2 years.

**E. Programs:** MICNGOs has **1** on-going program at this time:

- ✓ Calendar of Training Events: QuickBooks Users Group will meet on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. A helpful payroll tax spreadsheet will be introduced.

**F. Projects:** MICNGOs has interest or involvement in **8** projects at this time:

(1) Asian Development Bank project(s):

TA-4458 (RMI): Increasing Ownership and Effective Demand for Improved Education. A contract has been drawn up for Marie's participation. The contract is drawn up for Marie as President of MICNGOs. Marie has been attending project meetings, but has not signed the contract. She wanted to discuss some concerns with the group. The contract is intended to extend after the core project is completed and it would involve Marie and in effect, MICNGOs, doing a report card on how education is responding to the project findings/recommendations. It would effectively place MICNGOs in the position of being a government watchdog.

MICNGOs is at a cross-roads and we have to choose between being a watchdog and partners with government.

Jill expressed that WAM is actively engaged in dialogue with the ministry of education and has offered to do a Youth Vocational Skills Project. She supports the idea of partnership.

Michael also supported the idea of partnership and stated that if MICNGOs were to grading MOE poorly, it would cause ripple effects with the NGOs that are trying to work with MOE. He suggested that we offer to coach the Teachers Organization to be the watchdogs.

Jill suggested that we recruit parents of Upward Bound students as watchdogs.

Michael expressed his concern about discussion about reforming government. He does not like that word. He wants to discuss supporting and encouraging government.

Terry expressed that we need to be very careful how we approach these issues and strongly supported the emphasis on partnership. He also stated that he feels there has been increasing dialogue between MICNGOs and government, a trend we do not want to jeopardize.

Marie mentioned that Secretary Biram has been very open with the project and very transparent. Marie mentioned a paper called Strategies for Good Governance in the Pacific by Cedric Seldanha. Marie also mentioned that she has been offered the position of Director of NTC (National Training Council). She was encouraged by other members to take the position.

Going back to the watch-dog issue, Michael felt that MICNGOs, as a very young organization, is not in the position to take a watchdog role.

(2) Australian Aid projects: - No News

(3) European Union project:

\$500k grant: It appears that the final draft has not received necessary approval from the Minister of Finance. Possible strategies to facilitate getting this approval were discussed. It was agreed that Marie will contact Secretary Barton and try to get a meeting between herself, Barton, Casten and Bruce to encourage the speedy processing of the draft.

(4) Fund of the North Pacific: - No News

(5) Small Grants Program (SGP): received MICNGOs CVs – The next focal Group meeting will be on Wednesday at 10:00 am. MICNGOs will be taking on the role of supporting the SGP – with promotion and facilitating grant proposals. If all goes well, money for small grants will be available in August of this year.

(6) Rethinking Education in Micronesia: There is \$4,000 left to be drawn down from the UNESCO Grant. It was originally budgeted for document distribution. Jill contacted Hilda to see if she thought it should be spent on paper document distribution or on DVD duplication. Hilda's response seemed to favor the idea of spending the \$\$ on DVD. The group agreed to offer to make 40 sets for \$4,000. Motion was made to except this decision by Michael. Seconded by Jill. The split between Mission Pacific and MICNGOs was discussed and it was decided that Mission Pacific would determine the fair market value of the cost of duplication based on quotes and that MICNGOs and Mission Pacific would split the difference 50/50 between the cost of duplication and the amount charged for the DVDs.

(7) New Zealand Aid: - no news

(8) UNESCO projects – no news.

**G. Other Items:**

Our guest Ben Graham spoke.

He just received his MBA in Business Accounting. He also took some classes in Social Sector and Development Issues. He had a chance to work as an intern at the World Bank where he observed the interface between theory and the real world. He also had an opportunity to work for 2 months at ADB alongside Steve Pollard.

Ben had a chance to study the role of NGOs in:

- ✓ China – an example of suppression of the social sector
- ✓ Costa Rica – an example of the exact opposite – where there are strong environmental NGOs.

**Ben's Paper:** Ben is working on a paper on the role of NGOs in Economic Development of countries.

He mentioned that MICNGOs is significant. It is his observation that NGO Umbrella organizations are typically the first things that kick start significant NGO impact in the area of economic development.

Ben requested a list of NGOs in RMI. Marie has an old list and also mentioned that Giff Johnson is working on a revised list, so what he has will be more current.

**Social Issues Mapping:** Ben is planning on doing some thing he learned at WB and ADB – social issues mapping. This will take a look at what the social issues are for the RMI and what is the private sector doing, what is the public sector doing, and what is falling through the cracks. He mentioned the three legged stool of development: Government, business, and NGOs.

Ben feels governments need to learn how to manage donors or else donors end up managing the governments. Samoa is very good at directing donors and letting them know what the want from each one and coordinating the efforts.

**Economic and Social Report:** ADB is doing another project – making a new Economic and Social Report. Ben will be working with several ADB consultants over the next two months on this report. It is like METO 2000 which was done by Tony Hughs 5 years ago. Ben will be doing meetings with stakeholders as part of the study and will be setting up a meeting with MICNGOs for next week.

Ben offered to do volunteer work for MICNGOs or other NGOs. He is presently working with WUTMI to do a website.

**Trust Funds:** Ben explained the concept of social trust funds. If a large sum of money was put into a trust fund it could generate enough increase to provide say \$100,000 a year to NGOs in the Marshall Islands. This could be used to provide base funding for the most active NGOs – this would allow stable infrastructure so that NGOs could go after project funding. There are also environmental trust funds. Funders are very positive about this kind of plan.

Ben also mention that he is encouraging the RMI government to have a national website that would include government forms, vision documents, budget documents, audit reports and other pertinent information. This is a good step towards transparency and better governance. His ideas were presented to the president who is all for it; although on a practical level a sustainable plan will need to be developed for a website's ongoing maintenance at a reasonable price.

**DOI Survey:** Ben is also working on a project with DOI to do an extensive survey. There is a big budget for this work. \$70,000 from DOI and \$30,000 from ADB. It will be a 17 week project and involve survey of Marshall Islands including 6 atolls. There will be a 30% sample of RMI, with a 100% sample of Ebeye. 30 or 40 people will be involved and it will start in October although planning will start the month before.

The design of the survey is a very significant part of the process and NGOs are welcome to suggest questions and Ben encouraged us to think about what questions would give us data that we need for our work.

Ben asked us if we had a strategic plan. We mentioned that we have a proposal with the DOI for developing one and Jill mentioned that David Miles helped WAM develop one.

Michael suggested that we would be very open to having Ben do work for MICNGOs and if he saw an area that he would like to work in, it would be fine with us for him to develop a proposal to get funding for that work. Ben responded that for right now he wants to stick with volunteer work as he has plenty of paid consultant work at the moment.

Ben is planning to stay a short term consultant for the first year.

**Retreat:** There will be two more retreats and this time NGO sector representatives (probably 4 or 5) will be invited along with the Govt. reps and Private Sector reps.

The will be on Aug. 9 – Aug 12<sup>th</sup> – Private Sector Development  
August 15 –17 – Taxation

Tax reform is on the table. One thing they are planning to change is income tax. They plan to reduce the tax rate for people making under \$10,000 a year and increase the rate for those making over \$30,000.

Ben's email address is bmg27@georgetown.edu

**At the end of the meeting Marie mentioned that the Mayors Association will be meeting on August 1 and August 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

H. Next Meeting: scheduled for **August 4, 2005 at Enra. Time: 9:30am**

✓ Move to adjourn.

**Marshall Islands Council of NGO's  
Meeting Minutes**

**Date: 8-4-05      Time: 9:30am**

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**E. Roll Call.**

- ✓ Present: Marie (WUTMI), Agnes (YTYIH), Mike (AKTS.INC), Dennis (WAM), Kaylyn (MP), Anne (COOP).
- ✓ Absent: none
- ✓ Quorum Met: yes
- ✓ Visitors Noted: Steve Pollard (ADB) at 10:30.

**B. Secretary's Report.**

1. Minutes from the last MICNGOS meeting circulated.
2. Discussion on minutes.
3. Minutes Adopted.
4. Other Secretarial issues:
  - Kaylyn took 7/22 minutes w/ corrections on 7/15 minutes.
  - New NGO has formed w/Betty as Director – waiting for submission of their minutes.
  - MICNGOS 2004 Summary Report – Kaylyn has revised proposal to do this.
  - MICNGOS Reports to MISSA – Kaylyn is following up.
  - MICNGOS Research Capability – Carl & DOI grant. Ben Graham is doing extensive research on RMI Census. See RFP in today's Journal from Cheryl's office – Mike proposes substance abuse survey, with YTYIH & AKTS.INC counselors who have been trained on survey methods, and would follow Truancy Survey model; MICNGOS would get survey credit and 5-10% admin fee. Other survey possibilities: culture, participation, suicide, domestic violence.
  - Motion to support Ben Graham's proposal due to strong analysis of last year's Women's Education data. Mike & Kaylyn second motion. Marie's office will also submit proposal.
5. Archived Resources: JAR Report, ADB Enviro. Report, Ben's Report on Female Education & Employment.

**C. President's Report.**

1. Call for new agenda – will circulate USS Boxer visit info and offer of humanitarian and medical assistance.
2. Move on to standing agenda (items C – I)

**D. Treasurer's Report.**

1. Status on members' dues
2. Banking amount at last meeting:
  - Jill reports \$5,375.08 in bank; \$136.18 spent on UNESCO lunch – balance = \$5,238.90; outstanding obligation of \$350 to be paid to Kaylyn to write Annual Report and Organizational Manual.
3. Any changes in budget or banking

4. Other Treasury issues (checks ordered, reconciliation/audit activity, training activity, etc).
5. Move to accept Treasurer's Report

**E. Programs.** MICNGOs has 1 on-going program at this time:

- QuickBooks Meeting w/ Kaylyn & Jill every 1<sup>st</sup> Wed. at 2:00pm at MIVA.

**F. Projects.** MICNGOs has interest or involvement in \_\_\_ projects at this time.

1. Australian Aid projects:

- \$2k maximum per application for DAP
- WUTMI is getting \$44k Human Rights Grant (new) "POWEHR (Enhancing Human Rights), of which \$10k comes from AusAid.
- Reminder to email AusAid – when is application available and when will they visit the RMI? What funding cycle?

**G. Other Items.**

- Steve Pollard (ADB) update on pipeline issues for future collaboration. ADB's support of truancy project very welcome. Colleen joined to brief on Social Services Youth Project – 16 recommendations peer-reviewed by MICNGOS. Good partnership established w/Chief Secretary & President's Office. The RMI Government will be budgeting from \$1.5 to \$2 million of the Supplementary Education Grant (SEG) funds towards youth programs. This will be administrated by a new Youth Social Services Office which will report directly to the president. Acknowledgement of too many bad ADB loans in the past, and thus desire for no more loans. RMI must use own funds. Civil Service Reform TA is being designed = \$700-800k, of which \$150k for youth.
- What are PIANGO's priorities? To develop framework with 3-4 ADB members. Steve will return early 2006 to clarify issues and response as done in 2003. More on Tim & Ben's work on Education, Solid Waste.
- Mike: What resulted from Poverty Reduction Initiative? Solid Waste Prevention? Vocational training would have been a better response and was more needed. Waste program only treats the symptom and not the root problem of youth employment. Recent survey: male youth have 55% chance of going to jail before age 30. The trades are honorable. We cannot replicate the US, but will be lucky not to replicate Africa. Money isn't the problem. Need is for training and to create new jobs & businesses – entrepreneurship instead of anti-business attitude from the public sector. Local businesses are dying due to constraints & monopoly. Ministry of Public Works has eliminated competition.
- Mike's move: MICNGOS has reviewed ADB's recs and requests to include Council of Iroij, Chamber of Commerce, Churches, National Teachers' Association, and local government = Civil Society.
- Contact Colleen w/ADB: [colleenptaylor@hotmail.com](mailto:colleenptaylor@hotmail.com) - Respond w/feedback by 8/13.
- A new RTA (Regional TA) is being developed to focus on strengthening Non-state actors in 4 or 5 Pacific Island Nations in the interest of strengthening capacity in the area of development and poverty reduction. Colleen has been hired to help finish writing the TA. Steve Pollard won't be the desk officer. Colleen is going to forward us (via Marie) a copy of her paper that sparked the TA and later she will forward us a copy of the TA draft for comment.

- Colleen gave many thanks to MICNGOs for help with the Youth Social Services Project — community facilitators were great.
- Retreat w/ADB TBA. See ADB-NGO 2004 projects on website.
- Dennis proposes MICNGOs column in Journal on a monthly basis – 1<sup>st</sup> on QuickBooks workshop.

#### **H. Next Meeting.**

1. Next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, September 1<sup>st</sup>** at Enra at 9:30am.
2. Move to adjourn.

**Marshall Islands Council of Non-Government Organizations  
(MICNGOs)**

Minutes: Special Meeting on GEF-SGP Proposal  
September 6, 2005  
4:30 pm, Tuesday

Roll Call:	Marie Madison	WUTMI
	Daisy Momotaro	WUTMI
	Steve Why	Marshall Islands Conservation Society
	Kaylyn Hipple	Mission Pacific

Minutes taken by: Kaylyn

We reviewed the background of the GEF-SGP Proposal. MICNGOs has been asked to write a proposal to take part in launching the GEF-Small Grant Programme – with the focus on educating local NGOs and the community about the opportunities available for funding of environmental projects from GEF-SGP as well as other donors. We reviewed a template sent by the Regional Focal Person (RFP) as well as the example of the already approved proposal put together by Palau Conservation Society.

Steve offered to draft up the proposal and to have the Marshall Islands Conservation Society take a lead role in the administrating of the project – which all present agreed to. It was mentioned that we would like to see MICNGOs as an entity retain 5% – 10% to build up equity.

We brainstormed on ideas to include in the proposal

- Develop a MICNGOs Environmental Strategic Plan
  - Identification and prioritization of values, positive point of view.
- Proceed as a group together – coordinating efforts to be synergistic rather than competitive
- Develop training programs at the same time as other events to save travel costs for outer island participants.
  - WUTMI conference is Oct. 17 - 22
- Some components of training
  - Financial Management
  - Grant Writing
  - Project Implementation
  - Develop posters for outer island participants (Mission Pacific could take the lead in production of these.)
- General Capacity Building for Environmental Groups
- Opportunities for any NGO to get capacity Building
- We'd like to come up with a catching name for the project – like ATOL
- Shooting for Budget of \$30,000 - \$40,000, probably over two years.
- Want to encourage participation of CBO groups, want to be open to all – so far we've thought of
  - Churches
  - Traditional Leaders