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Culture of Connecting Educational Recovery Project



Traditional seafaring canoe. Courtesy of Traditions Affirming our Seafaring Ancestry

The word culture has many different meanings. For some it refers to an appreciation of good literature, music, art, and food. For a biologist, it can mean a colony of bacteria or other microorganisms growing in a nutrient medium in a laboratory Petri dish. However, for anthropologists and other behavioral scientists, culture is the full range of learned human behavior patterns.

The term was first used this way in 1871 by English anthropologist, Edward B. Tylor, in his book, "Primitive Culture." Tylor wrote that culture is "that complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, art, law, morals, custom, and any other capabilities and habits acquired by man/woman as a member of society." Culture is a powerful human tool for survival. Culture-based education refers to teaching and learning that are grounded in

a cultural worldview, from whose lens are taught knowledge, skills, content, and values that students need in today's global society.

Micronesia is rooted in more than 3,500 years of cultural heritage. Our indigenous knowledge and island wisdom have been sustaining and connecting our island communities throughout natural disasters, colonization, war and pandemics. Using the digital platform to preserve our cultural heritage and making it accessible online in a comprehensive and scholarly space elevates our indigenous cultures through the lenses of our younger generations. Guampedia, through the Governor's Education Assistance & Youth Empowerment grant program, will be able to leverage the power of technology with our rich cultural heritage to help support teaching our students

through this global pandemic, which has altered the course of education into the digital realm.

It is for this very reason that Guampedia is prepared to embark on a 24-month voyage to cultivate and implement this culture of connecting education recovery project. With thirteen educational initiatives charted, this project is formulated to help navigate safely through this ongoing pandemic and guide our youth towards being rooted in their community's sense of place and cultural identity.

We believe that the programs and learning resources that we will be creating through this grant program will help to empower our island youth and cultivate a culture of connection in education at different levels and across different sectors of our island's local and global community.

October Highlights

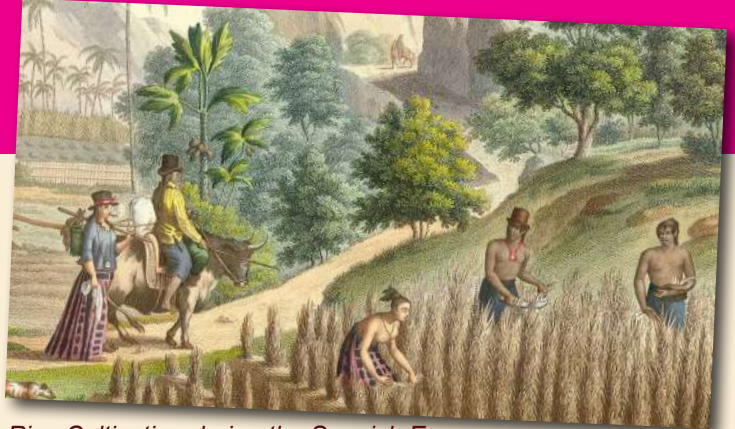
Rice Cultivation in the Marianas

In the Mariana Islands, as well as other islands throughout the Pacific, rice is considered one of the most important food staples. Fiesta plates are not complete without rice. Because much of our rice is imported today, many people are surprised to learn that the ancient Chamorros/CHamorus cultivated rice.

According to early historic accounts, rice (*Oryza sativa*) was produced in large quantities, and was used for trade between islands and later, with the [Europeans to obtain metal](#). Rice, however, is

significant archaeologically because the Chamorros/CHamorus of the Marianas were the only Pacific Island people who cultivated rice in the tropics dating back to ancient times.

Rice was planted by hand in natural swampy areas. The villages of Hagåtña, Hågat, Talfofo' and Malesso' in Guam were ideal places for planting rice. Planting was done in the Chamorro/CHamoru lunar month of Fa'gualo, the equivalent of late October in the modern calendar, and harvested almost half a year later. Click here to read more about [ancient uses of rice](#).



Rice Cultivation during the Spanish Era, Courtesy of J.A. Pellion/Guam Public Library

Geftao Guam: Red Cross Chartered

US Congress chartered the [Guam Chapter of the American Red Cross](#) on October 23, 1916, and signed by President Woodrow Wilson. The first Guam Chapter Chairman was Governor William J. Maxwell (1914-1916) who launched the first Roll Call Drive. More than \$2,500 was raised for the War Fund in 1917 with the following year achieving more than \$5,000, considered a large amount of money at that time.

In 1918, the chapter provided food, clothing

and shelter for typhoon victims, nearly depleting its resources, yet four years later in 1922 the chapter successfully launched an appeal for starving Russians in Vladivostok. From 1924 to 1932, the chapter built a school-nursing program in response to health care concerns about school children and small children at home. The Red Cross continued to grow and provided nursing services, its most active program, seconded by disaster relief.

Connecting Guam to the World

October 21, 1936, ushered in a new era on Guam when passenger service began with the [Pan American \(Pan Am\) Clipper Service](#) in Sumay. These historic flights put Guam on the map for wealthy Americans and celebrities, such as Ernest Hemingway, who stopped at Guam on the way to Asia. Air transportation to places like Manila, Honolulu, San Francisco and Tokyo was provided on a weekly basis. These flights flew all day and landed

in time for dinner and cocktails at the Pan Am Hotels that were constructed at each of the stops. In Guam, the Pam Am Hotel became a popular gathering place for the island's business and political leaders as they mingled with guests passing through. Pan Am helped increase the importance of [Sumay](#) during the late 1930s and provided jobs for Chamorros/CHamorus both on the island and in other Pan Am facilities.



The first Pan American clipper docs in Sumay. Courtesy of R.O.D. Sullivan/Pan American Historical Foundation