

CHUUK HONORS VICTIMS OF OPERATION HAILSTONE: 80TH MEMORIAL YEAR



On February 16, a gathering took place at the Blue Lagoon Resort to honor the victims of war in Truk Lagoon, which began with the Operation Hailstone, February 17 and 18, 1944. The memorial function was attended by certain leaders, business and community members, municipal government officials, students, as well as other visitors.

The Honorable Alexander R. Narruhn, Governor of Chuuk State, and Madame First Lady graced the event, along with T.H. Arthur Irons II, Chairman of the Committee on Resources and Development, House of Representatives and Vice Chairman T.H. Timothy Ruda.

Also in attendance were T.H. Redley Killion, former Vice President of the FSM and the former Speaker of the FSM Congress, T.H. Jack Fritz.

Four distinguished members of the private sector at the event were: T.H. Gradvin Aisek, owner of the Blue Lagoon Resort and Dive Shop and current Mayor of Tonoas Municipality; Mr. William Stinnett, owner of the Truk Stop Hotel and Restaurant; Captain so and so from the Odyssey, a divers liveaboard ship, and Mr. Johnny Meippen, a Chuukese private attorney.

A huge appreciation to the following for making time to be present: Keisuke Yokota and Eri Umino from Japan, both of whom reside on Weno Island operating the Chuuk Lagoon Dive Treasures, and Sergeant Justin Mitchell from the US Army Pacific Division.

A great measure of gratitude owed to Senior Pastor Perry Killion and the choir from the Logan Memorial Church, Mr. Sairos James for representing the honorable Mayor of Weno Municipality, and Fr. Kelly Yalmadau from the Chancery Office of the Diocese of the Caroline Islands for their significant involvement.

This year's memorial stood out for allowing the youth to share their view on the history of the war, getting participation from Chuuk High School and the Saramen Chuuk Academy seniors who led in the singing of the FSM National Anthem.

SECOND CVB SCHOOL OUTREACH FOR VISITOR-FRIENDLY-APPROACH PROJECT ENGAGES SCA STUDENTS

CVB has a "project" that is partly funded by Compact sector grants known as the Visitor-Friendly-Approach (VFA) in fiscal year 2024. The objective of this project is to inform and sensitize the youth regarding tourism matters. A huge part of this is to improve attitude toward visitors in general, based on customary norms and Christian call for "good neighbor" way of life, as an integral component of human rights values.

On February 10, CVB outreach team engaged with Saramen Chuuk Academy students in our second of such trip. The students welcomed the team and participated in the activities of the project with enthusiasm. At the end of the meeting, the students and their school Administration received an invitation by the CVB team to take part in the upcoming Operation Hailstone 80th memorial on February 16.

The first VFA school outreach took place at Chuuk High School on November 16, 2023.



CHUUK AIRPORT SECURITY AND EMERGENCY DRILL: A MULTI AGENCY LEARNING EXERCISE



The week of February 5 personnel from the Chuuk Airport, the Department of Public Safety, the Department of Health Services, the Red Cross Society, the International Organization for Migration, as well as the Chuuk Center for Emergency Operation took part in a table top exercise at the Governor's Office Auditorium.

The learning exercise concluded on February 9 with a full scale emergency practice to alert responders to their various parts in such situation.

The main road intersections close to the airport area and leading to the hospital were manned with traffic officers controlling pedestrians and motorists.

With established crash incidence in our recent history, the drill was seen as highly important to enhance readiness in crisis response and keep front-liners vigilant.

Personnel from US Aviation and FSM counterparts provided technical and expert support to the training.

MV ARTANIA LEAVES BIG LESSONS FOR CHUUK IN THE WAKE OF HER QUICK PASSAGE

The MV Artania would have been the third cruise ship to bring globe-venturing visitors to Chuuk in five months after the National Geographic Resolution on October 20, 2023, and the Coral Expedition that moored near Tonoas Island on November 24 to 25.

According to the Pacific Coast Agency, serving as local agent for the ship, around two-thousand passengers were on board, and nearly two hundred of them had expressed interest to get off on Weno Island for brief excursions.

Immediately following her arrival on February 23, crews from the ship came to shore to checkout the landing points where their clients would get on land. This exercise took over two hours.

However, toward noon time, CVB got informed by port agents that MV Artania had to sail on, aborting all interests for land excursions.



