

4th Quarter Newsletter - Marshall Islands

World Food Day 2022

On October 15, 2022, the Agriculture Division of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Commerce (MNRC) hosted its annual "World Food Day" event with the assistance of the Office of Commerce, Investment, and Tourism (OCIT), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Cooperation and Development Fund (ICDF), the College of the Marshall Islands (CMI), the Ministry of Health and Human Services (MoHHS), the Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority (MIMRA), and the Wellness

Center. This day is observed globally to mark the establishment of food and agriculture organizations. This very day draws attention to the plight of the world's hungry and emphasizes the significance of food security and healthy diets for all.

As a way of commemoration, each organization presented their products and promoted their work at a booth. OCIT also participated in order to promote and display their efforts and work. OCIT invited the Miss Marshall Islands 2023 contestants to display their island specialties at their booth. Out of all the contestants, Theda Bresh, Miss Namu, participated and displayed her island delicacies, "Bwiro," a fermented and preserved breadfruit, and "Jidraal Waini," which is shredded coconut. Miss Likiep and Carnie Reimers showcased their baked goods, as the Likiep women are known for their delicious baked goods.

In addition, the "poke" served at the MIMRA booth consisted of sashimi combined with kimchi paste and lime, whereas other stands offered fresh produce and seedlings cultivated locally in Majuro. This event was a success on its own, as nothing beats locally sourced sashimi and produce.



Welcoming Nauru Airlines

On October 16, 2022, the Office of Commerce, Investment, and Tourism (OCIT), in partnership with the RMI Australian Embassy, brought the "Iokwe Spirit" back to the Marshall Islands by staging a lavish welcome for the first Air Nauru passengers. With the reopening of the RMI borders, Air Nauru has resumed service from Brisbane to the Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, and the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). The return of Air Nauru to service following the epidemic is a source of tremendous joy. Despite the effects of COVID, the RMI provided the passengers with a warm greeting with friendly faces and music from the local LA Band, as well as beautiful local leis and delicious coconuts served by our Miss Marshall Islands 2023 contestants. Furthermore, OCIT plans to continue to engage with RMI tour operators to provide leisure packages to our incoming visitors serviced by Air Nauru this upcoming year. The leisure packages consist of diving, fishing, and other activities visitors can do during their stay in the RMI. These packages will be shared with the Air Nauru Airlines as well as the Australian Embassy to showcase and promote the Marshall Islands as a tourist destination.



Ebeye Night Market & Kwajalein Trade Fair:

To recuperate from the pandemic, OCIT, in close collaboration with MNRC and the Kwajalein Atoll Local Government (KALGOV), held the first night market in Ebeye, Kwajalein, at the Wilmer Bolkeim Gymnasium on November 4, 2022. To ensure the accommodations of the Majuro vendors, OCIT, as the main sponsor of the event, provided 10 rooms for the Majuro vendors. Having this night market in Ebeye was a challenge, not only because it was the first time but also because bringing in local products and produce from Majuro is not easy. Many thanks to MNRC's Trade Division for their partnership in providing the main sea transportation from Majuro to Ebeye.

This location was chosen because it is a common ground for all Ebeye residents. There were seventeen (17) vendors, 10 from Ebeye and 7 from Majuro, all of whom were able to make a profit. To enliven the night market, Majuro vendors were invited to join to sell their goods, such as handicrafts, fresh produce, and fresh fish. Ebeye vendors were also able to register and participate in the first night market. This event alone was a success as there was live music and food, as well as local products, and these are the main things that every islander looks forward to as it sets off a good vibe. This event was surely one for the books. With the support of our traditional and local leadership, OCIT was able to pull off such a successful event.



Following the successful night market, MNRC organized their annual two-day trade fair in Kwajalein with full support and assistance from OCIT. This took place at Kwajalein Gymnasium from November 6–7, 2022. The trade fair consists of Majuro vendors selling their local products to Kwajalein residents. This year, MIMRA, Leipajid, Elefa, Happy Hands, the 3 sisters Amimono, Tobolar, and Bokmej joined, as well as for the first time, Ebeye vendor MISCO.

Christmas Lights Contest:

In conjunction with the Mejerik Club and Chamber of Commerce, OCIT organized the annual Christmas lights contest. Even though it is a little bit late, the team has moved forward and made the decision that the start of the registration period is from December 12, 2022, all the way up to December 25, 2022.

The Christmas Lights Contest categories include cultural elegance, residential beautification, the "wow" factor, and most creative, with a chance to win cash awards. Registration is free. This year, the team planned something new and has incorporated a prize for business sectors in Majuro to celebrate the holiday spirit and express their inner creativity. The winners' awards will be presented and announced at the block party on December 31, 2022.

Christmas Lights Contest winners:

1. \$750 - Lieom Loeak
2. \$500 - Allen Mwekto
3. \$350 - Kakku Sawej



Majuro Block Party 2022:

OCIT and the Block Party Committee are the organizers for the annual block party to commemorate the end of a successful year and the beginning of a new one. This event is always held in downtown Majuro on December 31, 2022. With the reopening of our borders, we plan to "GO BIG." After almost two and a half years of closed borders, we hope to welcome visitors.

The Block Party features a stroll through downtown accompanied by music, entertainment, and a variety of food and other vendor stalls. In addition, there will be a separate space for children to have their own carnival, organized by several Majuro high school seniors and Miss Marshall Islands 2023 contestants who will be raising funds for the upcoming pageant. We intend to hold another successful block party.

