


PATA MICRONESIA 2nd Tri-annual Meeting



What an excellent way to wrap up a fiscal year and start anew! The PATA Micronesia Chapter held its 2nd tri-annual meeting in the Marshall Islands from September 25th to 29th, 2023. World Tourism Day and "Lutok Kobban Alele," the Marshallese Cultural Week, were also both celebrated during this week and offered Chapter members a variety of festivities to enjoy. The PATA Micronesia Chapter meeting consisted of executive and general membership meetings, along with tours of Majuro and neighboring atolls such as Likiep and Arno. Acting PATA Micronesia Chapter Chairman Mark Manglona presided over the meeting at the Marshall Islands Resort, Melele Room. Chairman's reports were delivered that highlighted the information and benefits of the PATA Micronesia Chapter to the new members. Followed by news and updates from the National and State Tourism Organizations in the Pacific region. In addition, as part of World Tourism Day's theme on tourism and green investments, two esteemed guest speakers were invited. Mrs. Jasmine B Hicking, who is a second year Master student in International Health Program at National Yangming Chiaotung University in Taiwan shared her thesis presentation on "Urban's adults perspective on the integration of the Marshallese Traditional Medicine in the RMI's Healthcare System", with continuous help of her Co-advisor,



late Dr. Irene Taafaki, may her soul rest in peace. Members were very pleased to have their questions answered and hope to see where this important project leads. “Komol tata PATA Micronesia Chapter for allowing me to share my piece today and another special thanks to Mr. Kimber Rilometo and Daphine Wase!”, Mrs. Hicking shout out her gratitude. The second speaker, Tim Mamangon from the College of Micronesia, presented their hydroponics project in the FSM. To conclude, a review of the chapter's mission and vision was discussed, followed by insights from members. In addition to the week-long activities, the RMI team organized an itinerary for its members to "Experience Iokwe." They had the chance to sample the newest bob whiskey and ma vodka from Marshallese producers Ramsey and Ben Reimers, a father-son duo. Esteemed PATA Micronesia members were also given the chance to visit Bokanbotin, an islet located in Majuro. This island is a prime example of sustainable tourism. It has been designated as a Marine Protected Area and relies primarily on solar energy for its power needs. In addition, the Arno and Likiep trips were created to offer esteemed members a chance to fully engage with our culture and truly feel the genuine warmth of our people. Furthermore, esteemed members ventured into the recently developed areas of our neighboring islands that are already in existence. Acting Chairman Manglona, on behalf of the Chapter, echoed his appreciation to the Office of Commerce, Investment and Tourism, their Board of Directors and the hardworking staff led by Francis Carlos Domnick, for ensuring a warm welcome and organized meeting filled with unique activities that all members enjoyed. "The Republic of the Marshall Islands is truly a fascinating destination and the people are very welcoming. I encourage all who are visiting to take lots of pictures and videos and share them on social media so that the rest of the world can see how beautiful these islands are", said Acting Chairman Manglona.

