



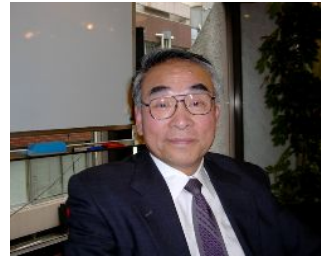
NGO ミクロネシア振興協会ニュース  
Non-Governmental Organization  
Association For Micronesian Development News

Publisher NGO AMD  
Shigeru Kamimura



The scene at the  
3rd annual general  
meeting

Pictures from the AMD  
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President Mr. Kamimura

In Feb 1998, the founders of the Association for Micronesian Development were asked by some senior staff from Hawaii University to help the Federated States of Micronesia become economically independent. They visited FSM and met leaders from political and all other spheres and held frank discussions. The FSM has a long historical and cultural relationship with Japan. It was a League of Nations Trust Territory under Japanese administration for 30 years from WWI. In Chuuk, formerly known as Truk, a strategically important Japanese base for the Japanese Imperial Fleet, the remains of which can still be seen today, was built. Large numbers of Japanese engaged in both civilian and military activities lived there. Therefore the Micronesian way of thinking and some of the local customs are in some aspects similar to those of Japan. It was the need and desire of people in FSM to become economically independent of US budget support that was the trigger for our involvement.



Since then AMD has been actively involved in close exchanges and various activities with the people of FSM, supported by the Asian Productivity Organization (APO), the Japanese Foreign Ministry and many individuals.

In August 2002, the AMD was formally registered as an NPO. The FSM is an island country consisting of 4 island states; Pohnpei, Chuuk, Yap and Kosrae, and it is blessed with unspoiled nature and beautiful seas.

The surrounding seas attract divers from all over the world. In Pohnpei are found the mysterious stone ruins of Nanmadol. Its legends are retold down through the generations and yet the real history of this enormous structure is still unclear. Would you like to visit this fascinating nation of innumerable far-flung islands? If you are interested in Micronesia, you are most welcome to join us.



Consultant: Mr Kouji Akinaga

Akinaga-san is of Japanese descent. He currently lives on Pohnpei Pohnpei State and runs a hotel and other businesses. The hotel is the PCR Hotel and he is a good all of AMD. He is the representative of the local AMD office in FSM



Consultant: Mr. Joshua Suka

Mr. Joshua Suka is representative of the people of Chuuk, he speaks Japanese and knows a lot about Japan. He is an important consultant and is an expert in Micronesian traditional stories. Do you know how herbal medicines are made? This is another reason for our visit.



At the end of June last year, a typhoon struck Micronesia causing damage in Chuuk and Pohnpei States. Chuuk State, particularly Natsushima Island received severe damage and we are providing assistance there. Micronesia is a country of unparalleled natural beauty picture-perfect islands with deep blue oceans and clear blue skies. Disaster relief will be medium and long term.



The NGO AMD is actively seeking your understanding and support for its disaster aid fund

Account name & Account number

photos AMD

Use of aid funds

Disaster relief will firstly come in the form of rice. After that we will switch to agricultural aid. The money from our fund raising campaign will be used for the above projects and to support one agricultural research student each year. We will also contribute to vital road repairs.



On the boat investigating the damaged area



Vice-Governor,  
closing the planning conference



The massive human and crop damage



House crushed under landslide





Vice-Chairman  
Terry Newman

It has been a great experience and a great privilege for me to be associated with the Federated States of Micronesia through AMD. I have long been interested in the fascinating history of this region, but until five years ago I had not had the opportunity to visit any Pacific Island country. The experience was extremely rewarding. The warmth of the people and the beauty of the islands, each unique in some way, and the stunning colours of the seas and the reefs was beyond my expectations. Also, I was surprised that there is a strong natural affinity with Japan that is partly due to history, but also partly to do with the underlying culture of Micronesia. It seems natural that Japan should develop closer relations with the FSM. I think that we in the AMD must work hard to make sure that this happens and that the relationship enriches the lives of the people of the FSM.



The evening sun on Momen Island in the Truk archipelago



Jeep Island within the Chuuk coral atoll  
Photo: Ms Hirata

I came to know the beauty of the FSM and warmth of its people through my Camera. There are many reasons why I became fascinated by this country. But if I were to pick one, my first visit five years ago stands out most vividly. We arrived at Chuuk airport at night. On our way to the Blue Lagoon Hotel from the airport, the stark light bulbs hanging from the coconut trees along the road emphasized the deep darkness spreading behind them. I felt uneasy in spite of being told before the trip that local people were friendly. However, next morning, when I opened the curtains in my hotel room, I was welcomed by a view that could have been from a scene in a movie: emerald green sea, blue sky... nature's treasure house. Meeting local people reminded me what is important in life. They gave me richness of the heart and spirit. I would like to join the activities of AMD and do what I can for those people



Vice Chairman  
Ms Mitsuko Hirata

### Conveying Culture

Young people conveying their culture, these boys and girls are not professionals. They are normal students.

### Chuuk reminded me of old Japan

It was last June (2002) when I finally took

up my droll friend Kawashima san's repeated invitation to "come and see the amazing coral reefs of Chuuk". I thought that among all of the options that I had for using my 30 year long service leave this seemed to be the most personally challenging, perhaps even life changing. I was not disappointed. All around was natural beauty and innocent warm-heartedness, but what I was most delighted with was that the atmosphere and feeling of Japan of old, now lost, is still alive here. As a result of this journey I feel that I have discovered what I should be doing with my life.



Traditional Dance  
(photo AMD)



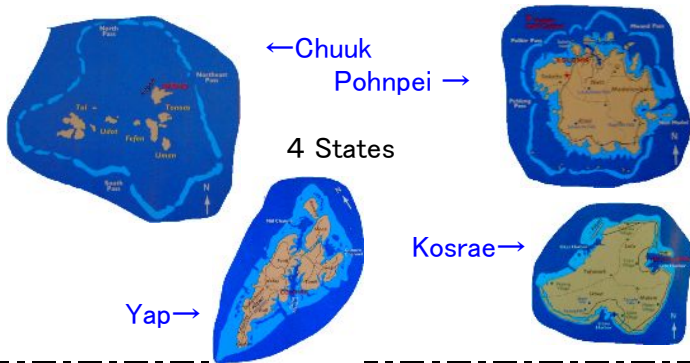
photo Ms. Hirata



Director  
Sachio Sakurai

At the 3rd Board Meeting Kandori-san was appointed an advisor to AMD. >>> Introduction of Ms Shinobu Kanadori

She is a famous Pro Wrestler in Japan



Shinobu Kandori

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Members of AMD



(photoAMD)

### Annual General Meeting

27.04.2003 From 12pm

Place: In the capital

I. Reporting matters (1) Activity report (2)Accounts

II. Conference matters (1)Planning activities (2)Budget, other matters