

✝ This issue of the PATA Micronesia Chapter newsletter is dedicated in loving memory of Dr. John Camacho Salas.

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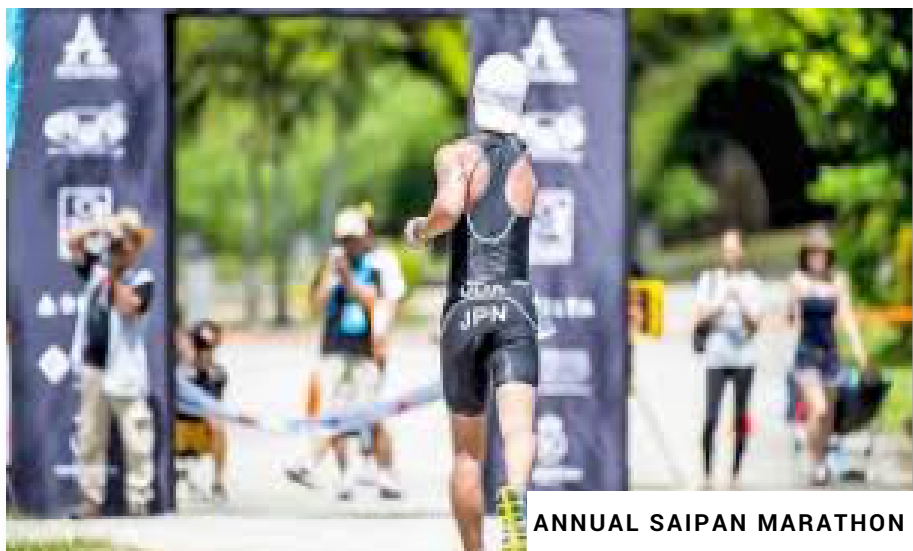
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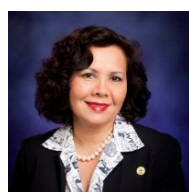
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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRWOMAN

**Hafa Adai, Tirow, Alii, Lenwo, Mogethin, Kaselehlie, Ran Annim & lakwe!**

In this issue, I would like to share with you some regional news, upcoming PATA and regional events, MicronesiaTour.com website Google analytics and an introduction to some of our new members.

In addition, and with a heavy heart, I would like to announce the passing of Dr. John C. Salas. Dr. Salas, as many of you may know, was an advocate for education in the region. He served as Chairman of the PATA Micronesia Chapter for many years and made it his goal to provide training and education throughout Micronesia.

Dr. Salas has left us with big shoes to fill. If we aspire to do even just a fraction of what he has done, we will definitely leave a positive and lasting impact on our communities.

In closing, I leave you with this photo, a wonderful memory, of our beloved friend and mentor, Dr. John C. Salas.



# TRIBUTE TO DR. JOHN CAMACHO SALAS



## *In Loving Memory*

A very dear friend of the PATA Micronesia Chapter, Dr. John Salas, passed away on January 26, 2018 at age 70.

Dr. Salas is remembered as a pioneer in Guam's education and a humble servant of the community, who has inspired everyone around him. His commitment to improving education and the quality of life for the people of Micronesia was his passion.

Dr. Salas served as senator during the 25th and 26th Guam Legislatures, from 1999 to 2003, and was chairman of the committee on lands and also the judiciary committee.

Dr. Salas graduated from Father Duenas in 1965, completed his doctoral studies at the University of Connecticut, and went on a distinguished career in the island's public and private sectors.

Dr. Salas, who was a Professor of Tourism at the University of Guam, also was the University's President and Vice President of Academic Affairs. Prior to this, he started his career as deputy director of the Department of Education and became the first provost at the former Vocational High School, now known as the Guam Community College.

His exceptional work was not limited to Guam. Dr. Salas is recognized throughout the region of Micronesia. He was an active PATA Micronesia Chapter member for several decades and was Chairman of the Board of Directors. Dr. Salas was instrumental in carrying out the Chapter's educational goals by providing training throughout the region. Under his leadership, the PATA Micronesia Chapter won the PATA Chapter of the Year Award and hosted the first PATA executive official visit to the region.

We ask that you keep Dr. Salas and his family in your prayers during this difficult time.





## **UNITED EXTEND KOSRAE SERVICE INCREASE INTO MAY 2018**

United Airlines has announced that the previously planned 3 weekly flights to Kosrae, scheduled from January 12, 2018 - March 19, 2018, has been extended until May 21, 2018.

The 3rd weekly Kosrae service will be operated as Guam - Chuuk - Pohnpei - Kosrae - Majuro - Honolulu.

Overall service increase for the Island Hopper to the following remains unchanged, commencing January 21, 2018: Chuuk (from 4 to 5 weekly), Pohnpei (from 4 to 5 weekly) and Majuro (from 3 to 4 weekly).

Source: <https://www.routesonline.com/news/38/airlineroute/276680/united-extends-kosrae-service-increase-into-may-2018/>

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## **CAROLINE ISLANDS AIR TO TAKE OVER YAP-PALAU ROUTE**

COLONIA, Yap – United Airlines’ decision to suspend flights between Yap and Palau as of January 7, has left a gaping hole in regional transportation, which now may be addressed.

Thursday afternoon, a delegation from FSM and Yap took off from Yap International Airport in the Harbin Y-12 airplane that was donated to Caroline Islands Air (CIA) by China. CIA is the FSM government-subsidized airline. The group was headed to Palau to meet with their counterparts to review and sign an agreement for the small aircraft to take over the route.

The delegation included Mr. Vincent Figir, former Governor of Yap State; the Honorable Bruno Tharngan, Chairman of the Council of Pilung; His Excellency Peter M. Christian, President of the FSM; the Honorable Tony Ganngiyan, Governor of Yap State; the Honorable Joses Gallen, Secretary of the FSM Department of Justice; the Honorable Lukner Weilbacher, Secretary of the FSM Department of Transportation, Communication & Infrastructure; and Mr. Alex Tretnoff, CEO of Caroline Islands Air and recently certified pilot for the Harbin Y-12.

Source: [http://www.kpress.info/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=category&id=8&Itemid=103](http://www.kpress.info/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&id=8&Itemid=103)



## **GUAM AND CNMI CONVENE WORKING GROUP**

On Thursday, February 1, 2018, Governor of the CNMI, Ralph D.L.B. Torres, and Governor of Guam, Eddie B. Calvo, formally opened the inaugural meeting of the Marianas Working Group.

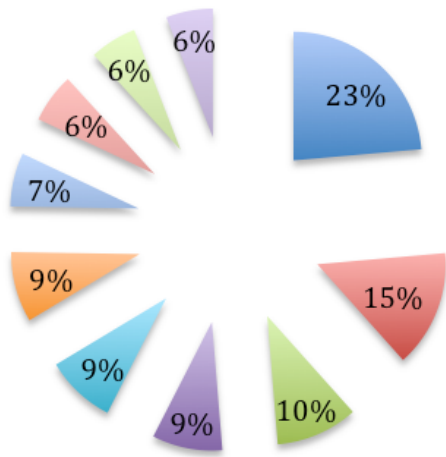
Both Governors welcomed more than 100 participants from the various Guam and CNMI government agencies and private sector entities the two-day meeting, which was held at the Saipan World Resort.

The working group was formed last December 2017 in an effort to deal with common issues such as the workforce, illegal drugs, the military buildup, the rhino beetle and endangered species, among other topics.

“In the next two days, we will engage in meaningful dialogue to identify common ground on issues such as workforce and education, commerce and ports, homeland security and public safety, health and food security, finance and taxation, land environment and veterans affairs, infrastructure utility and telecommunications,” said Representative Angel Demapan.

Source: <http://www.mvariety.com/cnmi/cnmi-news/local/101972-guam-nmi-convene-working-group>

# Sessions by Territory

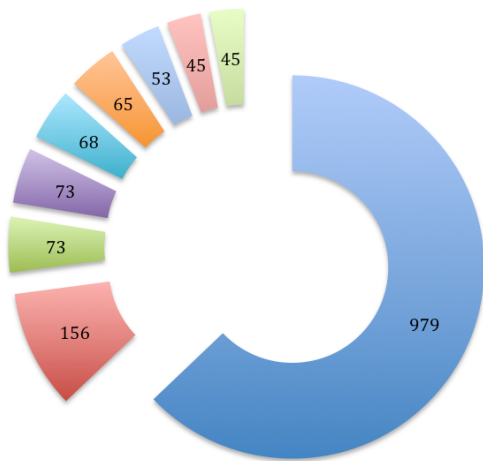


- Romania
- Uganda
- Papua New Guinea
- Algeria
- Fiji
- Tanzania
- New Zealand
- Spain

## SESSIONS BY TERRITORY

Google Analytics of the MicronesiaTour.com website reveal that 23% of the website traffic in December came from Romania, followed by Uganda (15%), Papua New Guinea (10%), Algeria (9%), Fiji (9%), New Zealand (9%) and Spain (9%).

# Most Visited Pages



- Home Page
- Getting-Here
- Travel-Micronesia/visa-requirements
- Keywords
- Destinations in Guam
- Events
- Destinations in Pohnpei
- Destinations in Palau
- Destinations in Saipan
- Destinations in Federated-States-Micronesia

## PAGES VISITED

For the same month, a total of 1,181 users visited the Chapter's website. The top 3 most visited sections of the website include the Homepage, "Getting Here" and "Visa Requirements." Popular destination pages during this period include Guam, Pohnpei, Palau, Saipan and the FSM.

## TIPS TO INCREASING WEBSITE TRAFFIC

Members are encouraged to submit relevant and exciting information, such as news-worthy press releases, upcoming event information, deals and promotions, etc., to keep the website content fresh and improve the website's search ranking.

The Chapter website currently ranks top 5 on Google search using keywords pertaining to "Travel and Micronesia". The more we actively use the website or link the website to your respective websites, we keep MicronesiaTour.com high on the search results.

## FREE MICRONESIATOUR.COM APP

The MicronesiaTour.com app is now available for download. It is compatible with both Android and Apple devices. Download the app today and stay updated with Chapter news and information.





## PATA INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

[www.pata.org](http://www.pata.org)

### PATA ANNUAL SUMMIT 2018

May 17-20  
Gangneung, Korea (ROK)

01

#### PATA Annual Summit 2018

Hosted by the Korea Tourism Organization and Gangwon Province, the 2018 annual summit will take place in Gangneung, Korea (ROK) from May 17-20, 2018. Engage with international leaders, industry shapers and senior decision-makers on topics such as sustainable growth, value and quality of tourism.

02

#### PATA Travel Mart 2018

Coined Asia-Pacific's *premier* travel trade show, this travel mart will allow Travel and Tourism Organizations to meet new clients, expand their networks and establish beneficial business relationships and partnerships. PTM will take place in Langkawi, Malaysia from September 12-14, 2018.

03

#### PATA Destination Marketing Forum

Formerly the New Tourism Frontier Forum, The PATA Destination Marketing Forum stems from the need to help secondary and tertiary areas grow and develop into widely recognized, bucket-listed tourism destination.

### PATA TRAVEL MART 2018

September 12-14

Mahsuri International Exhibition Centre (MIEC)  
Langkawi, Malaysia

### PATA DESTINATION MARKETING FORUM 2018

November 28-30  
Khon Kaen, Thailand

## PATA MICRONESIA CHAPTER REGIONAL EVENTS

[www.micronesiatour.com](http://www.micronesiatour.com)

01

#### Operation Hailstone (74th Anniversary)

Chuuk | February 16, 2018  
POC: Douglas Marar | [dmarar1974@gmail.com](mailto:dmarar1974@gmail.com)

02

#### 14th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival

Tinian | February 17-18, 2018  
POC: Judy Torres | [jtorres@mymarianas.com](mailto:jtorres@mymarianas.com)

03

#### Yap Day Festival

Yap | March 1 - 2, 2018  
POC: Don Evans | [donyvb@mail.fm](mailto:donyvb@mail.fm)

04

#### 13th Annual Saipan Marathon

Saipan | March 10, 2018  
POC: Judy Torres | [jtorres@mymarianas.com](mailto:jtorres@mymarianas.com)

05

#### Chuuk Cultural Day

Chuuk | March 31, 2018  
POC: Douglas Marar | [dmarar1974@gmail.com](mailto:dmarar1974@gmail.com)

06

#### Yap Homecoming Festival

Yap | June 16, 2018  
POC: Don Evans | [donyvb@mail.fm](mailto:donyvb@mail.fm)

07

#### Guam Micronesia Island Fair (GMIF)

Guam | May 4-6, 2018  
POC: Dee Hernandez | [dee.hernandez@visitguam.org](mailto:dee.hernandez@visitguam.org)





# WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS!



**PALAU CENTRAL HOTEL**  
1724 Main Street  
Koror, Palau 96940  
Republic of Palau  
Tel: +680.488.4500  
www.palaucentral.com

As a landmark property, the original hotel opened in the 80's to serve Palau's budding tourism market as well as Trust Territory representatives and regional investors. Now under renovation the new Palau Central Hotel will offer 82 state of the art rooms, restaurant and retail space, conference center, spa and outstanding service.



**WEST PLAZA HOTELS**  
P.O. Box 280  
Koror, Republic of Palau  
Tel: +680.488.2133  
www.wphpalau.com

Located in the heart of Koror, only 500 m from local restaurants, bars and cafés. West Plaza Hotels consist of a total of 5 properties: West Plaza Hotel Malakal, West Plaza Hotel Downtown, West Plaza Hotel Degekel, West Plaza Hotel by the Sea and West Plaza Hotel Coral Reef.



**CAROLINES RESORT**  
P.O. Box 10148  
Koror, Palau 96940  
Tel: +680.488.3755  
carolines-palau.com

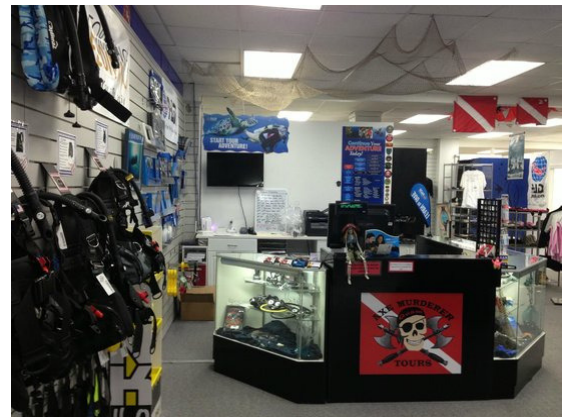
All of their rooms are private hand crafted bungalows, modeled after traditional Palauan architecture using local materials such as bamboo, mahogany and mangrove. Property consist of a total of 8 bungalows located on a secluded hilltop overlooking the Pacific Ocean.



**AXE MURDER TOURS**  
163 W. Marine Corps Dr.  
Hagatna, GU 96919  
Tel: +1671.654.2933  
amtguamdiveshop.com

A scuba diving shop located in Guam, Axe Murderer Tours offers a personalized experience in Guam-- America's Jewel in the Pacific, one of the greatest diving locations in the world!

They are a PADI 5\* centre and have two locations, at the Andersen Air Force Base and in Hagatna.



## LEARN ABOUT OUR OTHER NEW MEMBERS AT THE NEXT NEWS LETTER FEATURE:

- ★ MOMES TOUR PLUS
- ★ ELILAI RESTAURANT
- ★ BELAU TOURISM ASSOCIATION