

For Immediate Release

**PATA Micronesia Chapter's Farewell to Dr. Mario Hardy**

**(Wednesday, May 26, 2021: Micronesia) –**

The region of Micronesia bids farewell to Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) CEO, Dr. Mario Hardy and sends best wishes to him and his family on their new chapter in life.

During his seven (7) years at the helm of PATA, Dr. Hardy led the efforts to “bring the ‘P’ back in PATA” by working closely with the National and State Tourism Organizations in Micronesia, their respective local governments and other non-profits, to support their regional travel and tourism development goals.

Not too long after he came on board, Dr. Hardy was instrumental in bringing a large PATA event to the region. For the first time ever, Guam and the region was host of the 2016 PATA Annual Summit, one of PATA’s signature events that features the association’s executive and advisory board meetings and annual general membership meeting, in addition to an international conference that addresses travel and tourism industry trends and topics. This was also the first time Guam was host to the United Nations World Tourism Organization, who in collaboration with PATA, made for an unforgettable event.

Additionally, during his time at PATA, Palau was given the opportunity to host the 2017 PATA New Tourism Frontier Forum, now called the Destination Marketing Forum. Dr. Hardy was also instrumental in helping the region develop a plan for a potential small-ship homeported cruise industry in Micronesia. As a result of his leadership, members of PATA and travel organizations around the world have heard of the magnificent region of Micronesia. This partnership also made it possible to bring travel industry professionals to the islands to share their vast knowledge and expertise, which is valuable to our people.

“The region of Micronesia is grateful for Dr. Hardy’s support through the years. He has traveled throughout the region and has become a true friend and brother of the islands. Enjoy your retirement, your time with family and friends, and when you itch for the pristine waters, lush green jungles, and beautiful natural environment that is Micronesia, know that you are always welcome,” said PATA Micronesia Chairwoman, Ms. Paula Monk.



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