



For Immediate Release

PATA Micronesia Chapter 3rd Tri-annual Mtg. Held on Dec. 3-4, 2019, in Palau

(Tuesday, December 17, 2019) – Koror, Palau) - The 3rd Tri-annual Meeting of the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Micronesia Chapter was held on Dec. 3-4, 2019, in Palau. Over 40 members representing national and state tourism offices of Micronesia, representatives of travel trade and other businesses, elected officials, and private individuals gathered for the organization's meeting.

The meeting opened on December 2, 2019, with a Rock Island tour to Ulong Island and a welcoming reception hosted by the Palau Visitors Authority at the Airai Bai, which won a 2019 PATA Gold Award for Community Based Tourism.

Chapter committee meetings were held the following day at the Tommy Remengesau Jr. Building. Education Committee Chairwoman Denise Mendiola reported on recent trainings, received feedback from members, and led planning for future trainings in collaboration with the other PATA committees. Cultural, Heritage & Environment Committee Chairwoman Rita Nauta reported on the MicrONEsia project, aimed at connecting and promoting the region's history, heritage and cultural landscape by producing culturally relevant educational materials for Micronesian students and regional branding efforts. Marketing Committee Vice Chairman Luciano Abraham and Chapter Treasurer Mark Manglona reported on upcoming international and regional events, co-sharing booth space under one Micronesia Pavilion, and budget. The Membership Committee report that the chapter has 96 entities and 171 members in good standing and presented a new fee structure for membership renewals. All the committee also presented their proposed budgets and business plans for next year.

The meeting also had two guest speakers. Flori-Anne Dela Cruz shared her experiences as PATA Face of the Future and a Guam Visitors Bureau Board Director. Dr. Austin J. Shelton III of the University of Guam shared about environmental conservation.

The chapter General Membership meeting was held on the following day, with each of the national and state tourism offices reporting on the status of visitor arrivals, upcoming events for tourists, upcoming marketing events, and other news. A farewell lunch was hosted by the Palau Visitors Authority in Melekeok State where members enjoyed a beachside barbecue and concluded the 3rd PATA Tri-Annual Meeting by planting 105 clams in one of the state's conservation area

"It's been a successful meeting with over forty members traveling to Palau. It is an honor to have the host island," said PATA Micronesia Chairwoman Stephanie Nakamura. "On behalf of the PATA Micronesia Chapter's Board of Directors, Committee, and members, I would like to thank Palau Visitors Authority and all PATA Micronesia Chapter members in Palau for their warm hospitality. I would also like to thank all the entities and their members for attending our 3rd tri-annual meeting in Palau. Looking forward to our first 2020 Tri-Annual Meeting that will be held in Pohnpei."

A special airline rate was provided by United Airlines to Palau for PATA Mic members. PATA is a membership association acting as a catalyst for the responsible development of the Asia Pacific travel and tourism industry. The PATA Micronesia Chapter consists of members from the Micronesia region working directly in the tourism industry, including national and state tourism offices. In partnership with PATA Micronesia's private and public-sector members, the organization enhances the sustainable growth, value and quality of travel and tourism to, from, and within the region. The PATA Micronesia Chapter conducts regular meetings throughout the region and promotes the destination online at www.micronesiatour.com.

For more information about the PATA Micronesia Chapter, contact Chairwoman Stephanie Nakamura at sn@pristineparadisepalau.com or visit www.patamicronesia.org.



Flori-Anne Dela Cruz shared her experiences as PATA Face of the Future and a Guam Visitors Bureau Board Director at the Pacific-Asia Travel Association Micronesia chapter on Dec. ____, 2019, at their 3rd Tri-annual Meeting in Palau on Dec. ____, 2019.



Dr. Austin Shelton III of the University of Guam speaks on environmental conservation at the Pacific-Asia Travel Association Micronesia chapter on Dec. ____, 2019, in Palau.



The 3rd Tri-annual meeting of the Pacific-Asia Travel Association Micronesia chapter is held on Dec. 3-4, 2019, in Palau.





Participants of the 3rd Tri-annual Meeting of the Pacific-Asia Travel Association Micronesia chapter tour _____ on Dec. ____, 2019.

DK



Pacific-Asia Travel Association Micronesia chapter President Stephanie Nakamura, second from left, welcomes delegates to the chapter's 3rd Tri-annual Meeting in Palau on Dec. ____, 2019. From left are ____ (names).

