



For Immediate Release

## PATA Micronesia Tri-annual Mtg. Held on Apr. 2-4, 2019, in Marshall Is.

(Tuesday, May 28, 2019) – Koror, Palau) The 1st Tri-annual Meeting of the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Micronesia Chapter was held on Apr. 2-4, 2019, in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, marking the beginning of the chapter's 33<sup>rd</sup> year.

Dozens of members representing national and state tourism offices of Micronesia, representatives of travel trade and other businesses, elected officials, and private individuals attended the meeting, held in Majuro atoll and Eneko Island.

"What an incredible week we had in Majuro!," said Stephanie Nakamura, PATA Micronesia Chairwoman. "I would like to thank The Ministry of Natural Resources & Commerce; the Office of Commerce, Investment, and Tourism, Bank of the Marshall Islands, Marshall Island Holdings, Inc., Marshall Islands Resort and new PATA Micronesia member Air Nauru, who hosted receptions for the attendees, welcoming us with their warm hospitality and making our stay a memorable one. I would also like to thank all the members for joining us and for attending our first Tri-Annual Meeting. This is one of the largest meeting with over 80 attendees, and I encourage the other members to join us at our next one will be held in July or August of this year. Kommoltata!"

Committee meetings were held at Marshall Islands Resort in Majuro atoll on the first day of meeting. Education Committee Chairwoman Denise Mendiola reported on training conducted throughout the region in 2018, including Hospitality Industry Customer Service and CPR, First Aid and AED training. The chapter is accepting training requests for 2019, which will be held in partnership with the Small Business Development Center, United Airlines, and respective island territory tourism offices and other partners. Marketing Committee Chairwoman Laurie DeBrum reported on upcoming events where the islands will be collectively marketed as a Micronesian region, including PATA Travel Mart, Asia Dive Expo 2019, Divers Equipment Marketing Association (DEMA) 2019, Scuba Show 2019, and others. Cultural, Heritage & Environment Chairwoman Rita Nauta emphasized the shared heritage of celestial navigation throughout the region. Membership Committee Chairwoman Lou Aguon-Schulte highlighted the convenience of the new online membership application and payment.

The PATA Micronesia general membership meeting was held on Apr. 3 on the neighboring island of Eneko, where bungalows, a cookhouse, and white sand beaches welcome visitors. Each of the national and state tourism officers reported on the status of visitor arrivals, upcoming events for tourists, upcoming marketing event, and other news.

On the final day, participants had the option to visit Mili Atoll, where some theorize famed aviator Amelia Earhart and navigator Fred Noonan may have landed in 1937.

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 directly in the tourism industry, including national and state tourism offices. In partnership with PATA'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.visitmicronesia.com](http://www.visitmicronesia.com).

For more information on PATA, contact Chairwoman Stephanie Nakamura at [sn@pristineparadisepalau.com](mailto:sn@pristineparadisepalau.com) or visit [www.patamicronesia.org](http://www.patamicronesia.org).



Pacific Asia Travel Association Micronesia chapter convenes the committee meetings of their tri-annual meeting at the Marshal Island Resort in Majuro, Marshall Is., on Apr. 2, 2019.



Pacific Asia Travel Association Micronesia chapter holds of their tri-annual meeting at Eneko Island in Majuro, Marshall Is., on Apr. 3, 2019.

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