

**FOURTH JOINT COMMUNIQUE
of the
FOURTH WESTERN MICRONESIAN CHIEF EXECUTIVES' SUMMIT**

The Territory of Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the State of Yap,
within the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau

Introduction

The Chief Executives of the Government of the Territory of Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the State of Yap, within the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau held the Fourth Western Micronesian Chief Executives' Summit to follow up on the Third Summit, held in Guam in July of 2004. The Third Summit resulted in the adoption of regional programs of action in the focus areas of Tourism, Health, Environment and Transportation. This evolved from the First and Second Summit meetings that identified focus areas for each of the participants and the development of regional programs and action plans.

This Fourth Summit followed up on the recommendations made through meetings of four regional committees and councils created during the Third Summit, as well as meetings of air and sea transportation representatives, the Micronesian Police Executives Association, and healthcare directors, administrators, secretaries and ministers from Yap, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands and Palau. Weaknesses in the follow-up from the Third Summit were acknowledged and recommendations were offered to better improve the communication between each state.

The Summit reaffirmed the commitment of each of the participants, on behalf of their people and their governments, to establish closer ties, expand future discussions and agree on beneficial initiatives for the benefit of the entire Western Micronesian Region.

Governor Robert Ruecho of Yap and President Tommy E. Remengesau of Palau conveyed their appreciation to Governor Felix P. Camacho and the people of Guam for the hospitality extended to them and their delegations during these important regional meetings. Governor Camacho, the Governor of Guam, in turn, expressed his appreciation to the Governor and the President for their attendance and active participation in the Fourth Western Micronesian Chief Executives' Summit and expressed the regrets of Governor Juan Babauta who was unable to attend the meetings because of pressing issues facing the Commonwealth.

Priority Issues

The members of four general issue areas, derived from the focus issues adopted by the Western Micronesian Chief Executives, made recommendations to officially adopt regional programs of action. These recommendations were made following regional meetings addressing the priority issues and guided by the input of the representatives of the four respective focus states.

Environment

The members of the Interim Pacific Islands Regional Recycling Initiative Committee (PIRRIC) (hereinafter referred therein as “the Committee”) reviewed the Communiqué from the Third Western Micronesian Chief Executives’ Summit and focused on the action items necessary to implement the following three primary tasks: (1) create a Comprehensive Regional Solid Waste Action Plan; (2) conduct a Regional Environmental Outreach Workshop; and (3) remove regional barriers. This issue focuses on establishing an international, regional and sub-regional environment that permits joint collaboration between the different types of governments with varying political standing.

Guam recommended the establishment of an Interim PIRRIC to fulfill the vision of the Third Communiqué. The membership of this Committee is comprised of those delegates officially representing their government and present during this Working Session, as follows:

- The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands – Mr. John Castro, DEQ Director and Mr. Steve Hiney, CNMI DPW, SWMD, Program Manager
- Guam – Mr. Fred M. Castro, Guam EPA Administrator and Ms. Conchita S.N. Taitano, Guam EPA
- The Republic of Palau – Mr. Larry Goddard, Senior Legal Counsel to the President and Mr. Joe Aitaro, International Waters Program National Coordinator
- Yap State – Mr. Charles L. Chieng, Chairman, Yap EPA Board of Directors and Mr. Leo Yinug, Director, Yap EPA

The Committee also recognizes that the Chief Executives will appoint the final PIRRIC membership, including alternates.

To establish the required Comprehensive Regional Solid Waste Action Plan (hereinafter referred therein as “RSWAP”), the Committee identified the following key parameters: (1) program development and capacity building; (2) public outreach and education and (3) financing.

In an effort to further the development of the RSWAP, the Committee agreed to address the information needed for Parameter 1 – Program Development: Capacity Building. To accomplish the goals of the Program Development – Capacity Building parameter, the Committee identified the following elements and actions needed to fulfill this area:

- Waste Assessment;
- Institutional controls;
- Environmental monitoring; and
- Infrastructure capacity.

In the area of waste assessment, the Committee agreed to provide preliminary waste assessment and waste characterization for their respective islands during the 1st PIRRIC Meeting. In preparation for this 1st PIRRIC meeting, the representatives agreed to the following:

- (1) The CNMI agreed to provide their waste assessment report at the meeting.
- (2) Palau, which is currently in the process of completing its waste assessment report, which should be completed by October 31, 2005, agreed to provide a preliminary assessment report.
- (3) Yap representatives agreed to provide a preliminary assessment report, in addition to the data compiled by the World Health Organization (WHO).
- (4) Guam agreed to compile the data submitted by individual islands on the initial survey conducted by Palau.

In the area of institutional controls, the Committee agreed to compile and make available the current and proposed laws and regulations pertaining to solid waste management from their respective islands during the 1st PIRRIC Meeting.

In regard to environmental mentoring, CNMI representatives announced that, as a result of the Pacific Islands Solid Waste Management Training (Phase I – OMIP DOI Grant), the major issues shared by the islands were waste management and waste characterization. Therefore, CNMI agreed to complete the OMIP DOI Grant Phase II application by June 21, 2005. The application will include, at a minimum, training on waste management and waste characterization for the Region.

In the area of infrastructure capacity, the Committee agreed to compile and provide a compilation of recycling processes occurring in their respective islands during the 1st PIRRIC Meeting. Representatives of Palau agreed to establish a matrix that incorporates the information submitted by the Interim PIRRIC members during the 1st PIRRIC Meeting. This matrix will be completed by December 2005.

In conclusion, the Committee has tabled the planning for a Regional Environmental Outreach Workshop pending the finalization of the Comprehensive RSWAP. However, the Committee will continue public outreach at the local level. In the interim, the Committee agreed to compile and provide existing public outreach plans for the 1st PIRRIC Meeting.

The Committee agreed that addressing regional barriers is an ongoing process. It is hoped that the different opportunities for assistance available to the participating islands can be expanded and rationalized through a comprehensive approach to regional recycling, allowing all the members of the Summit to benefit.

Guam and the CNMI agreed to coordinate all regional recycling efforts with the Department of Interior (DOI) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Palau and Yap agreed to coordinate all regional recycling efforts with the Pacific Island Forum (PIF).

In light of the various associations, groups, and forums addressing regional recycling, such as the Pacific Island Forum (PIF), the South Pacific Regional Environmental Program (SPREP), the Pacific Islands Regional Recycling Network (PIRRN), the Association of Pacific Islands Legislators (APIL) and the PIRRIC, the Committee intends to evaluate all existing regional strategies and incorporate them in future actions.

The CNMI recommended the establishment of a professional trade organization. The purpose of this organization would be to provide technical guidance to the PIRRIC in formulating positions and policies. The CNMI agreed to prepare a draft proposal for the creation of this organization during the 1st PIRRIC Meeting.

The Chief Executives agreed that the information presented at the first PIRRIC meeting is intended to serve as the basis for the formulation of the RSWAP. The Chief Executives recognized that within the context of the RSWAP, the Committee should make recommendations regarding solid waste/recycling fee reductions, including port, shipping and other relevant fees due during the 1st PIRRIC Meeting. Governor Camacho supported the recommendation that Guam's administrative representatives take the lead in providing reminders to Committee members on the recommended action items during the 1st PIRRIC Meeting. Guam and Palau representatives also agreed to pursue and report on various proposals for regional metallic waste removal.

In response to a recommendation by President Remengesau, the Chief Executives agreed that shipping should be included as a key component in the effort to economically remove metallic waste from member islands. The goal is to minimize the cost of metal waste removal through joint regional shipping efforts. It was further agreed to develop a collective regional proposal to the USEPA, as well as other federal entities, to seek financial and training assistance for regional recycling efforts.

The Committee agreed to hold the 1st PIRRIC Meeting on June 21, 2005, to coincide with the EPA Pacific Islands Environmental Conference in Guam.

Invasive Species

The continuing threat of invasive species throughout the region is a critical issue that, if left unresolved, could result in severe consequences to the natural and human resources of member states. Consequently, diligent awareness and swift action by each government to potential problems remain the most important courses of response. In this light, the Chief Executives agreed to continue cooperative efforts to combat invasive species through the Regional Invasive Species Council (RISC).

The Chief Executives agreed to continue efforts to combat the brown tree snake problem faced in Guam and throughout the region, focusing on the area of interdiction. Each government agreed to submit a letter to appropriate U.S. government agencies seeking enhanced assistance in dealing with interdiction issues, as well as the eradication and control of the brown tree snake.

In order to better coordinate this effort, the Chief Executives endorsed the establishment of a cabinet level Invasive Species Council in each state to facilitate interdepartmental cooperation and communication.

The Chief Executives urged that each government compile a top 10 list of their most important invasive species prior to the next meeting of the RISC. This list will serve as the basis for the compilation of the region's most detrimental invasive species and the setting of regional priorities for action at the next RISC meeting.

The Chief Executives also supported the strengthening of prevention and response measures to invasive species through the improvement of training to key governmental personnel and through the sharing of information between RISC members regarding changes in import regulatory protocols, marketing campaigns, governmental strategies, and newly identified threats.

Each state agreed to seek funding, individually and cooperatively, to address these regional invasive species priorities. The Chief Executives also agreed that they would send their RISC members to one workshop-style meeting prior to the next Summit in order to collaborate on invasive species issues and priorities. Guam agreed to take the lead in organizing the next meeting, in consultation with other partners.

The Chief Executives further agreed to sign a joint letter to the Presidents of the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands inviting their respective countries to join the RISC.

Coral Reef Initiative

We reaffirm our commitment to coral reef conservation projects to ensure sustainable use of these critical resources both now and for generations to come. To assist our efforts to properly manage these natural wonders to the benefit of our communities, we encourage the U.S. federal government to continue supporting important coral reef programs. For the upcoming federal budget, we support, at a minimum, the request for \$30 million to support the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's coral reef program, with \$2.7 million in funds for the local jurisdiction's local projects and an additional \$500,000 for programs in Micronesia. We also support NOAA's project to complete benthic habitat maps for the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Marshall Islands.

We also resolve to explore the potential for more international partnerships and regional programs to ensure the future of our coral reefs. We support the inclusion of freely associated states in the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force, which has made great strides in increasing regional capacity and partnerships to benefit our coral reef resources.

Regional Renewable Energy

Initial discussions of the working group identified a number of major challenges for member states: (1) total dependency of member states on off-island fossil fuel hinders the identification of alternate renewable energy alternatives; (2) numerous renewable energy proposals have been recommended to supplant fossil fuel dependency, such as of wind power, solar power, OTEC and Sea Water Air Conditioning (SWAC); (3) non-compliant energy saving appliances and other electrical equipment have been, and continue to be, imported without any monitoring effort or mechanisms; and (4) current collaborative efforts between agencies and governments to establish effective and comprehensive outreach programs is limited.

The Committee noted numerous challenges faced by member states to the development of renewable energy resources: (1) the remoteness of the islands and their dependence on overseas carriers; (2) the relative infancy of conservation efforts; and (3) the impediment of frequent catastrophic storms to the efforts to implement renewable energy measures.

The Committee offered numerous educational options in the area of renewable energy, including: (1) the continuation and expansion of public and private sector conservation measures and (2) the continuation and improvement of outreach programs to schools, villages and remote islands. It was noted that numerous executive orders and presidential directives already exist to implement renewable energy measures within the governments of the member states. However, stronger enforcement of these regulatory requirements must be undertaken to effectively implement renewable energy programs.

The Chief Executives agreed that a regional '*Center of Excellence*', focusing on renewable energy, must be established to support the advancement of renewable energy in the region, focusing on new technologies as well as collaborative regional educational efforts at the community level. It was agreed that initiatives to establish pilot projects in remote areas of the

region would enhance public information and result in the implementation of renewable energy measures throughout the region.

In the very important area of energy efficient buildings and appliances, it was noted that Guam has taken the lead through the institution of an Energy Code, effective since May 2001. The CNMI government is currently developing a code patterned after the Guam Energy Code while Palau has developed a proposed energy code, but has encountered difficulties from the construction industry in its implementation.

Currently, there are many inexpensive appliances being imported into the region without any assurance of standard energy saving mechanisms. The lack of effective and comprehensive monitoring systems throughout the region has resulted in the importation of appliances that fail to meet recommended energy efficiency standards.

The Chief Executives approved recommendations from Palau and Yap to implement national home appliance standards to prevent the import of inefficient and non-compliant equipment into their islands. It was agreed that power authorities must establish and implement alternative renewable energy standards and measures to reduce the consumption of fossil fuel. Further, the Chief Executives agreed to submit a joint appeal to appropriate U.S. Government agencies to fund education programs for the region,

It was also agreed that national home appliance standards should be implemented throughout the region, with Guam taking the lead in identifying such standards. Guam agreed to share its findings with member states at the next summit.

The Committee noted that Palau and Yap have implemented pilot projects to harvest wind energy and that certain areas of Guam would be ideal for this alternate energy source. However, the initial programs were unsuccessful. Further studies and technical assistance were sought to clarify these endeavors. Guam has followed suit on the wind energy proposals, but has encountered public opposition due to a variety of reasons. Unsuccessful attempts could be avoided in the future through collaborative efforts and studies on regional capabilities and geographic features.

The Chief Executives agreed to the establishment of a regional *Center of Excellence* in Guam to assist the governments to improve renewable energy measures and to establish the groundwork for the establishment of national policies requiring renewable energy use. A collaborative effort will justify requests to the U.S. Government for financial and technical assistance.

A feasibility study by the Guam Power Authority to assess options in Sea Water Air Conditioning (SWAC) applications for Guam and the region is currently being undertaken. The study is based upon a SWAC system currently being implemented on Oahu, Hawaii in the Waikiki area. The Hawaii project has proven beneficial in accommodating an island deep sea cool water air conditioning system. The GPA will continue to move forward on its study and will update regional partners of its findings at the next summit.

Finally, the Chief Executives agreed to pursue national policies that mandate the conversion of their power plants to renewable energy, and to develop regional policies that permit economies of scale and the sharing of technologies.

Transportation

During the second Transportation Summit, member states recommended numerous proposals in the areas of air and sea transportation service in line with the Third Communiqué.

The Chief Executives agreed that there is a need for regional compliance with the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002. They also agreed that enlisting the support of ATSCOM/MSC is critical for compulsory pilotage.

The Chief Executives expressed their commitment to ensuring their respective state's compliance and retention of International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code and Maritime Transportation Security Act Certification. They agreed to implement standardization of regulations for and among regional ports and vessels. The Chief Executives also agreed to enlist the participation of the governments of the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. The Chief Executives further supported submitting requests to the United States Department of State for technical assistance from the United States Coast Guard in order to obtain and retain compliance/certification under the ISPS code.

The Chief Executives agreed to continue to seek the support of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community Maritime Programme, TOSCOMM/MSC, and other appropriate regional organizations that are critical to achieving maritime security goals.

The Chief Executives affirmed that their respective governments should continue to support the establishment of pilotage rates that are reasonable and basically uniform throughout the regional ports.

In line with the recommendations from their transportation directors, the Chief Executives agreed to adopt a resolution strongly urging the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to provide adequate staffing per the U.S. Regal model, incorporating each airport's unique requirements, because the model enhances efficient operations and quality customer services. The Chief Executives also urged the federalization of the Tinian and Rota Airport facilities, which would result in safer flights and eliminate reverse screening. The Chief Executives further agreed to address ICAO airport screening status and to support consistent bilateral solutions for Western Pacific regional airports.

The Chief Executives fully endorsed the funding for facility improvements and/or personnel expenses necessary for security compliance.

In order to simplify and rationalize security requirements/procedures imposed on regional flights through national and state jurisdictions, including island-hopper flights, the Chief Executives supported the development of effective and acceptable screening procedures. They believe that

such improvements would result in the elimination of duplicative procedures that inconvenience passengers throughout Micronesia and would result in reduced costs to regional airports and airlines.

The Chief Executives noted that stringent inter-island travel TSA requirements are disruptive to vacation travelers and inconvenient for passengers having to disembark at each island for additional security checks. Governor Camacho requested, and the other Chief Executives agreed, to write a joint resolution to Admiral Stone, head of TSA, to address the matter in order to prevent further negative impact on tourism, passenger travel and other economic trade between islands.

The Chief Executives agreed to seek technical assistance for the Republic of Palau, the FSM and the RMI, pursuant to their respective Compact agreements, for screening training, regulatory enhancements and facility improvements.

The Chief Executives also noted that Palau Micronesia Air, fully endorsed and supported by the Third Joint Communiqué, is currently revamping operations and organizational structure and is expected to resume flights in the near future. The Chief Executives encouraged Continental Airlines to: re-introduce daily jet service between Guam/Saipan using jet aircraft; offer more convenient flight schedules (during daylight hours) at least two times daily; and increase daily operations to the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Health

In the area of healthcare, the working group reviewed the communiqué from the 3rd Western Micronesian Chief Executives' Summit and discussed the following issues.

The Chief Executives supported the development of a Pan-Micronesian Regional Medical Center on Guam as a mechanism to deal with escalating medical referral costs and to develop a high level of medical expertise within the region. Recognizing that referral systems have been developed by member states with tertiary care centers around the Pacific Rim countries, the development of a Regional Medical Center on Guam would provide another option that could be utilized for tertiary medical services. The Chief Executives also supported seeking U. S. Federal Government funding for the development of this regional medical center.

Guam, the CNMI and Palau have in place functional health professional licensing systems that are mandated by law. In Yap, the FSM National Government manages the system and needs to adopt formal standards. The credential requirements are different for the four member states. Guam and CNMI have U.S. based requirements while Palau and Yap State have instituted different standards.

The Chief Executives agreed that a common credentialing system or criteria could lead to increased migration of skilled health care workers to more urban areas where wages and benefits are much higher. Such out-flow of skilled health care workers will, in the long term, create an imbalance of health indicators in the region and will lead to even more urban migration by

people to seek health care benefits. The Chief Executives recognized that this would further exacerbate the impact of the regional population migration.

Because of this potential impact, the Chief Executives supported a process of providing “temporary licenses” for health professionals in times of emergencies and uniquely identified needs as identified by each member country.

The Chief Executives agreed to seek assistance from the Pacific Island Health Officers Association (PIHOA) to conduct a formal evaluation of the effect of a 1998 Institute of Medicine Report on regional health care development and to document whether or not there has been a significant reduction of health disparities since the report. In the report, very specific recommendations were made on how to reduce the health disparities in U.S. jurisdictions through a partnership with the U. S. Federal Government. Seven years have now passed since the development of the IOM Report, which is still being used as the cornerstone of the deliberation between the jurisdictions and the U.S. Government; especially in the justification of the domestic grants. There has not been a formal evaluation on extent of the implementation of the IOM Report.

Recognizing that patients are increasingly referred off-island to the Philippines rather than more distant, and often more expensive alternative locations for health care, the Chief Executives also agreed to pursue joint negotiation of off-island referral rates with hospitals in the Philippines.

The Chief Executives recommended that prior to the Fifth Summit, the healthcare working group re-visit and follow up on all the previous recommendations to make sure that they are moving toward translation, operation, implementation and evaluation. The meeting should also address the over-utilization of Emergency Rooms for non-emergent services - especially with marginalized people in our communities -by taking a look at strategies to alleviate the financial burden that our secondary care institutions are being required to accommodate in lieu of providing non-emergent ambulatory services. The Healthcare working group will also review the recommendations from the four previous Summits to assure their progress.

Tourism

Committee members reviewed highlights of the July 2004 meeting and recognized the need for a regional awareness program that includes the participation of the Western and Eastern areas of Micronesia.

The intent was to raise international awareness of the Micronesia region as an inclusive destination package. It was recognized that global awareness will focus on current core tourist markets and gradually expand to markets in the Asian, North American, European and Australian continents. The program’s goal is to develop and adopt a marketing theme for the Micronesia regional destination campaign, similar in concept, for example, to the “Malaysia, Truly Asia” theme.

The Committee identified the following issues as the core to implementing the program: (1) a consensus needs to be reached among the Micronesia region about their respective government’s commitment to participate in the marketing campaign; (2) a separate funding source needs to be identified that will complement the current National Tourism Office budget. The Committee

proposed, as a start up budget for the campaign, an amount equal to \$2 per person for every person living in Micronesia (the annual contribution per destination, therefore, will be a pro-rata amount per capita); (3) in order for the campaign to be effective and sustainable, it should be a 3 to 5 year program and each destination must agree to participate for the entire duration of the program.

The Committee then reported on progress to date. Guam, the CNMI, Yap, Palau, the FSM and the Republic of Marshall Islands are working jointly to promote '*Magnificent Micronesia*' at the Japan Association of Travel Agents Fair 2005 and the Diving Equipment and Marketing Association (DEMA) Consumer and Trade Show 2005. All of the Micronesian associations hosted a seminar at DEMA that included travel agents and media representatives, and the regions were given an opportunity to present their destinations at the seminar.

The Guam Visitor's Bureau established marketing committees such as Australia, Europe and Visa Waiver Countries, and the Pacific, Micronesia, and Philippine Market Committee to promote the region beyond the core markets. The CNMI launched their Bisita Marianas Campaign in Guam. The campaign was implemented in December 2004 and will continue through December 2005. Similarly, the Bisita Marianas-Guam campaign was launched in Rota on March 19, 2005.

The Micronesia region was promoted at the Andersen Air Force Base '*Guam Summer Happenings*' event at Pacific Hotel and Restaurant Expo and Trade Show held this month. In addition, most recently, various regions sent delegations to participate in the '*Flame Tree Festival*' in Saipan, held this month.

The newly created '**magnificentmicronesia.com**' website features the Western and Eastern islands of Micronesia. All regions are encouraged to include the website address on all their international print and electronic media. The GVB is negotiating with a web hosting and development company in Hawaii to include the website in its newsletters that are regularly "e-blasted" or mass- mailed through the internet. The Committee also reported it has secured brochure support for all National Tourism Offices in Micronesia that will lead to the formation of a *Magnificent Micronesia* consumer brochure promoting all of Micronesia as a tourist destination.

The Committee then presented several recommendations for executive approval. The Chief Executives agreed to develop a blueprint to extend the average number of days per visit in Micronesia. The goal is also to reach out to the islands in the Eastern region of Micronesia and invite them to become an active participant in this promotional effort. The Chief Executives also agreed to target the cruise ship industry and promote Micronesia as the new '*Caribbean in the Pacific*.' They further agreed to support the invitation of future tour study visits to Micronesia, through the industry and to form a working group to address procurement regulations and alternate funding options per destination.

The Chief Executives also agreed to '*Build the Product*' by: (1) allowing Micronesia to showcase its cultural uniqueness and distinct island attributes; (2) regionally maintaining a pristine image by keeping the islands litter and graffiti free and expanding our beautification efforts; (3) encouraging national tourism offices to work together to identify indigenous species that are found '*Only In*' Micronesia; (4)

introducing Micronesia as a holistic destination by capitalizing on our natural environment and products used for promoting good health and well being (example: Chamorro medicine, fruits, plants, flora and fauna); (5) highlighting the easy accessibility to the islands across this vast expanse of ocean and communicating the paradox of '*Small Yet Huge*', since separately the islands are small in size, but as a region, the Micronesia islands cover a huge area; (6) appealing to the traveler who desires adventure and a variety of travel experiences and emphasizing that the islands have separate and unique culture and natural beauty to satisfy various interests; and (7) leveraging marketing efforts among National Tourism Offices through joint overseas representation.

Finally, at the recommendation of Governor Camacho, the Chief Executives also agreed to send a joint letter to the Department of Defense seeking support of regional tourism through ship visits to each of the member states.

Public Safety

The Chief Executives agreed to support the membership of the Micronesia Police Executives Association (MPEA) in their efforts to foster regional cooperation in order to best serve our communities in terms of public safety and security. The Western Micronesian Chief Executives also agreed to support the efforts of the MPEA in the development of a Regional Forensic Science Laboratory in Guam in order to establish a regional approach to criminal investigation, crime scene investigation and forensic services to support our region.

The Chief Executives endorsed the establishment of one regional laboratory and the establishment of satellite laboratories for drug analysis. The Chief Executives further supported the creation of Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) Teams and the designation of criminal investigators for each island. The Chief Executives agreed that standardized annual training, the securing of unified Crime Scene Response Kits And Protocols and an 'Investigator Exchange Program' were necessary for a successful Regional Forensics Science Laboratory.

The Chief Executives agreed to collectively seek United States Department of Interior and United States Congressional Support for a Regional Forensics Science Laboratory. The Chief Executives further agreed that they would empower their respective Chiefs of Police to establish a regional plan for a forensics science lab, to include funding for and staffing of a regional laboratory.

Workforce Investment

The Chief Executives agreed that workforce investment opportunities in Guam, the CNMI, Yap and Palau are critical to the development of future economic growth and sustainable development. The Chief Executives also agreed that each state should be committed to providing program services to improve the quality of life of each of our citizens by maximizing their potential for employment in a competitive world economy. The Executives further agreed that the support of registered apprenticeship programs certified by the U.S. Department of Labor should be jointly pursued for the benefit of the regional workforce. The Chief Executives urged that each state be involved in the increasing of the productivity of their respective workforces. Governor Camacho introduced a motion to develop a regional strategic plan to implement

regional apprenticeship training and workforce investment in Micronesia. He stressed the importance of including the Pacific Workforce Investment Workgroup on the agenda of the Fifth Western Micronesian Chief Executives Summit, and it was agreed that each Chief Executive will provide updates on progress in their various states at the Fifth Summit.

Conclusion

The Chief Executives stressed the need to adopt practical regional initiatives to strengthen the economic development of each of the four states. They agreed that greater coordination and communication was required to accomplish this goal. They also committed to fully integrating regional issues into ongoing national governmental planning and budget processes.

President Remengesau invited the Summit's Chief Executives to attend two very important meetings this year to be held in Palau between October 30 and November 7, 2005. The first meeting is the International Coral Reef Initiative Annual Meeting, to begin on October 30th. The second is the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force bi-annual meeting. This is the first time the Task Force has held a meeting outside of the U.S. jurisdictions. The meeting begins on November 4th.

The Fifth Micronesian Chief Executives Summit was scheduled to take place between mid November and mid December, 2005, in the State of Yap. Governor Ruecho will preside as Chair of the Summit.

Hereby signed in recognition of joint agreement of all above listed cooperative initiatives on this twenty-second day of April in the year two thousand five:

Juan N. Babauta
Governor of the Commonwealth
Of the Northern Mariana Islands

Felix P. Camacho
Governor of Guam

Robert A. Ruecho
Governor of Yap
Federated States of Micronesia

Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr.
President of the Republic of Palau