

*Inside the*

# OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

*Republic of the Marshall Islands*

A C C O U N T A B I L I T Y : T R A N S P A R E N C Y :  
G O O D G O V E R N A N C E : S E R V I C E A B I L I T Y

“This is a rare opportunity to showcase the Marshall Islands to hundreds of thousands of people at one location.”

Kessai H. Note

## RMI TO AICHI 2005



*President Note and the First Lady with the Emperor and Empress of Japan during the President’s State Visit in 2003*

“This is a rare opportunity to showcase the Marshall Islands to hundreds of thousands of people at one location,” said President Note. “We are hopeful that it will attract potential visitors and investors.”

President Note is also scheduled to meet with the Acting Prime Minister, JICA Vice President and other government

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President Kessai H. Note will lead the Marshall Islands delegation to participate in the *2005 World Exposition Aichi, Japan* next week.

The World Expo, which began on March 25 and will run until the end of September, will showcase the Marshall Islands next week Friday. With preparations set, the Marshall Islands will perform traditional dances, along with traditional handi-

crafts and customs. On a more modern atmosphere, the RMI will showcase itself as a tourist location.

Prior to his arrival in Nagoya for the National Day, the President and First Lady will be in Tokyo to pay a courtesy call on the Emperor and Empress of Japan.

President Note said that the trip to Japan will “paint a more clearer picture of the Marshall Islands to the international community.”

officials.

After the President’s meetings in Tokyo, he and the First Lady will join the local dancers from Namdrik, handicraft weavers and other entertainers in Nagoya for the National Day on Friday.

The President will remain in Japan until next week Sunday where he will then depart for Auckland, New Zealand to join the Core Group to review the Pacific Plan before it goes to the Forum Leaders for endorsement.

## House Approves \$6.1 Million Education Grant



*President Note (right) with U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Dennis Hastert, RMI Foreign Minister Gerald M. Zackios and RMI Ambassador to the U.S. Banny deBrum (forefront left) in Washington....June 2004*

the U.S. and RMI governments. This program replaced funds received in prior years through formula grants distrib-

Note's strong commitment to enhancing educational opportunities for all Marshallese citizens."

Looking ahead, Ambassador deBrum noted that "This positive development will help advance our efforts to obtain similar support in the U.S. Senate, and ultimately a final bill that is signed into law by President Bush." The legislation also permits the RMI to use up to five percent of the funds for the program administration and related technical assistance.

The U.S. House of Representatives, late last week approved legislation that will provide \$6.1 million in education assistance funding for the Marshall Islands in fiscal year 2006.

The Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriation Bill for Fiscal Year 2006 – passed by the House of Representatives today by a vote of 250 to 151 -- provides \$6.1 million in for the U.S. Government's Supplemental Education Grants program in the RMI, which was established in 2003 as part of legislation implementing the amended Compact of Free Association between

uted by the U.S. Department of Education.

"I am extremely gratified that the U.S. House of Representatives has funded the second year of this Supplemental Education Grants program," said Banny deBrum, the RMI's Ambassador to the United States. "This important step in the legislative process reflects an appreciation by the Congress for President

The U.S. Senate is expected to begin consideration of the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriation Bill for Fiscal Year 2006 in the coming weeks.

*Note: Foreign Minister Gerald M. Zackios will be in Washington to attend the scheduled Senate Changed Circumstances Petition (CCP) Hearing set for July 19. The Minister, who will be accompanying the President to Japan for a series of meeting with the Japanese Acting Prime Minister, JICA Vice President and other senior government officials will fly directly to Washington. Zackios indicated that he is looking forward to the hearing in the Senate. The Minister also took part in the House CCP hearing a few weeks ago.*

## Inside the Cabinet

- At its meeting on May 12, 2005 the Cabinet approved the Judicial Service Commission's recommendation for the appointment of Iroj Botlan Loeak and Mr. Kalem Jinuna as associate Judges for the Traditional Rights Court for a term of four years.
- The Cabinet, on June 9 appointed Luckner K Abner, as Chairman, Mr. Carl Heine and Lanny Lane as members of

the Customary Law and Language Commission.

- The Cabinet approved funding for the national teams to take part in the Mini-South Pacific Games in Palau.

## Fishermen Day Marked

The Public Service Commission announced in a memo last week that Friday July 1, 2005 "is a designated public holiday. Consequently, in observance of this day, all government offices throughout the Republic will be closed..."

However, "employees who are required to work on this day must report to work. All ministries and agencies, however, shall ensure that essential public services are not affected," the memo stated.

## CORE GROUP TO REVIEW PACIFIC PLAN



President Note and New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark

“The Pacific Plan must first and foremost truly reflect our needs as individual nations in one respect and as a region in another,” an issued statement from the President on the Pacific Plan said.

“I am sure most

member countries in the region have already identified areas of national priority whether in a short; medium or long term; while some have even begun implementing them,” said President Note. “It is my firm belief that the only way to make this Pacific Plan work, is not to reinvent the wheel but rather focus on a common approach that will link our national efforts into regional integration.”

In late April following the first Core Group meeting in Auckland, the Marshall Islands held its National Consultation on Majuro in which the President stated that in order for this regional integration to work successfully, “we must understand the nature of our relationships with each other and with the wider world in that respect. We must forge a closer and

“The Pacific Plan must first and foremost truly reflect our needs as individual nations in one respect and as a region in another.”

Kessai H. Note

more effective alliance in interacting with the territories and other entities that have yet to achieve independence. We must understand the role the region should and must pursue vis-à-vis our collective global interest.”

President Note, who will head to New Zealand from Tokyo, Japan, will arrive in Auckland in the early morning of Monday July 11, transiting to Wellington where the meeting will take place.

The President will arrive back in Majuro Friday July 15 on Air Nauru through Nadi, Fiji and Tarawa, Kiribati.

President Kessai H. Note will join his colleagues in Wellington, New Zealand on June 11-12 to review the Pacific Plan before the final Pacific Islands’ Forum leaders approval during the next Leaders’ Meeting later this year.

President Note, along with the Prime Ministers of Samoa, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea and the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Secretary General will review the Plan. Recently, the Secretary General traveled to PIF countries with the intention of consultation before the final review by the Core Group.

### Micro Leaders Summit Set for July 21-24 in Palau



Palau President Remengesau, Jr., FSM President Urusemal, and RMI President Note in Yap

RMI President Kessai H. Note will join the Presidents of Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) later this month for the 5th Micronesian Presidents’ Summit in Palau.

During last year’s meeting in Yap (FSM), the Presidents discussed a wide range of issues; from public safety to Compact issues. During the meeting, the President will seek the support of the FSM and Palau in working with the U.S. Congress to adequately address the Change Circumstances Petition. The Petition is currently with the U.S. Congress in which a Senate Hearing is set for July 19.

Following the leaders’ meeting, the Presidents will attend the opening of the Mini-South Pacific Games, which Palau is hosting, on July 24. President Note is scheduled to arrive back on Majuro Monday July 25.

## A LOOK INSIDE THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Fri. July 1: National Holiday (Fishermen's Day)
- Tue. July 5, 2005: President departs Majuro for Japan
- Thu. July 7: Cabinet Meeting
- Fri. July 8: World Expo (Japan)
- July 11-12: Pacific Islands Forum Core Group meeting in New Zealand
- Fri. July 15: President arrives back on Majuro from New Zealand
- Tue. July 19: Senate Hearing on the CCP
- July 21-24: Micronesian Presidents' Summit (Palau)
- Sun. July 24: Mini South Pacific Games opening in Palau
- Mon. Aug 1: Marshall Islands Mayors' Association Meeting begins
- Mon. Aug 8: 2005 2nd Session of Nitijela Opens
- September 14-16 High Level Summit (N.Y.)
- Thu. Sept 15: President to address Summit during the afternoon session
- September 17-28: UNGA General Debate

**NOTE:** *If you wish to make an appointment with the President or Ministers, please feel free to contact the offices at the numbers and email provided below. Otherwise, feel free to contact individual Ministers in their respective offices.*

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