*Volume II, Issue #1*

*December, 2017*

**OFFICERS:**

**President:**
Ms. Erlinda Naputi

**Vice-President:**
Mr. Roland San Nicolas

**Secretary:**
Mr. Michael Williams

**Treasurer:**
Mr. Jefrey Libao

**Mission:**
**Is to enhance the quality of leadership in order to support and strengthen libraries, archives, and museums across the Pacific Islands.**

**Vision:**
**PIALA will be the guiding star to navigate the sea of information for a culturally rich society.**

**The Values Statements for PIALA are as follow:**

1. Our respect for multicultural heritage
2. Our dedication to build family connections within our profession
3. Our ability to develop/foster strong relationships across the community
4. Our commitment to equitable access to information
5. Our passion for literacy and learning

Click on the PIALA By-Laws for more information.

**PIALA Website:**
http://piala-pacific.wix.com/piala-pacific#!

**Email:**
piala.org@gmail.com

# BRIEFS

## Pacific Islands Association of Libraries, Archives, and Museums (PIALA)

By Atarino A. Helieisar

### The 27th PIALA Annual Conference in Pohnpei State, Federated States of Micronesia November 13-17, 2017

"The best part of the annual conference was the energy generated by having so many librarians, archivists, museum curators and educators under one roof." The opportunity to talk with other librarians from all over the Pacific mostly here in Micronesia convinced me that, regardless of library type, we all share a common commitment to provide our library patrons the best possible access to information.

*Atarino A. Helieisar, Chief Law Librarian/Publication Manager, FSM Supreme Court Law Libraries (FSMSCLL)*

The 27th Pacific Islands Association of Libraries, Archives, and Museums (PIALA) Annual Conference was hosted by the Libraries, Archives & Museums of Pohnpei (LAMP) Association in partnership with the Pohnpei State Governor's Office and the College of Micronesia - FSM with the theme "*Innovating Together: Enabling Libraries, Archives, and Museums for Sustainable Development*". All workshops were held at the Pohnpei State Governor's Conference room, right in the heart of Kolonia. The PIALA conference was designed by librarians, archivists, museum curators and educators for information professionals. The conference is the premier educational conference for information professionals and nearly 90 librarians, archivists, museum curators, and educators from across the Pacific and close to 30 educational opportunities, abundant social functions, tours of libraries, and the chance to learn what librarians are doing in their libraries took place. The conference brought together participants from the islands of Palau, Republic of Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Northern Marianas, Territory of Guam, and the FSM states of Chuuk, Kosrae, Yap, and Pohnpei.

## Opening Ceremony:

This year's opening ceremony reflects the support from the Pohnpei State Government and the entire state of Pohnpei. During the opening ceremony of the 27th PIALA Annual Conference, Mr. Atarino Helieisar, PIALA Past President (2008-2015) and currently the Chief Law Librarian/Publication Manager for the FSM Supreme Court was the Master of Ceremony who started the ceremony by recognizing the presence of all dignitaries, honor guests, and all the delegation members including the Republic of Palau, Territory of Guam, CMNI, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Kiribati and the FSM (Pohnpei, Chuuk Yap and Kosrae). Mr. Helieisar went on and talked about the brief history of the canoe named PIALA which travels around the Pacific with a mission to fostering awareness and encouraging cooperation and resource sharing among libraries,

archives, museums, and related institutions of the Pacific Islands. Every year, this canoe named PIALA travels through the blue and deep Pacific Ocean facing rough and calm weather and here we are today because of what we learned from those who were here before us and their legacies will never be forgotten. The opening ceremony continued with a moment of silence to remember all PIALA members, friends and family members who have passed away and those who are not present physically because of other important matters. The opening ceremony officially started out with the singing of the Pohnpei Anthem by the Youth-4-Change followed by the invocation given by Father Ken Urumolug.

The Honorable Reed B. Oliver, Lieutenant Governor of the state of Pohnpei gave the welcoming remarks on behalf of Governor Peterson and the entire state of Pohnpei. Honorable Oliver went on and welcomed all delegates from each entity and also assured all delegates that his office was open to give all the best Pohnpei can offer for all to make sure they enjoy the short stay here in the state of Pohnpei. Mr. Roland San Nicolas, PIALA Vice-President from Guam gave the special remarks on behalf of PIALA President Schutz as she was not on island during the first day of the Conference. The Keynote Address for the conference was given by the Honorable Churchill B. Edward, Director of Education for the state of Pohnpei. Director

Edward joined the Lt. Governor in welcoming all delegates and at the same time thanking the off island delegates for bringing the rain to Pohnpei as the saying "*When visitors come, they bring blessings!"* Honorable Edward reminded all librarians, that when you share, share with all you have and have an open mind. When we share ideas, it's called Professional Development. As librarians, we build the capacity of our people across the region or across our work and then we learn more things better. Honorable Edward went on and encouraged participants not to just participate but to be involved in meetings and group discussions. When you are involved, you will know and then share the information you learn. To conclude he reminded librarians that the work librarians do is valuable. It really helped those like us who are in the position as educators to make our work better by enhancing education and more other things. LAMP President, Mrs. Jennifer Helieisar gave the closing remarks by joining the previous speakers in words of respects and at the same time welcomed all dignitaries, honored guests and PIALA friends. Mrs. Helieisar went on and thanked all LAMP members for the patience they had under her leadership as the LAMP President and also congratulated all for hosting the 27th PIALA Annual Conference. With that, she closed her remarks by challenging delegates to listen to one another and create partnerships that will take PIALA into the future with a favorite quote from her father, in the local language saying "*Mwadang Rohng, Pwand Lokaia*!" meaning "*Listen, but also take time to think things through, before responding*."

Right after the opening ceremony, the conference went straight into action on a power point presentation titled "*Role of Libraries in Sustainable Development*" given by Ms. Wa Yi Ma, from the RFK library at the University of Guam. The presentation introduced the SDG initiative and the essential role libraries are expected to play in advancing the progress. The presentation concluded with recommendations on coordination of efforts in awareness raising and capacity building. Followed in the afternoon, a four-hour pre-conference workshop was given by Mr. Atarino Helieisar, Chief Law Librarian/Publication Manager for the FSM Supreme Court, assisted by LAMP members titled "*IFLA Global Vision: Becoming A Part of the Global Brainstorm*."

The pre-conference for this year's conference discussed a vision for libraries and the challenges and opportunities that libraries face now and that they will be facing in the future. The workshop was highly interactive and the presenter provided participants the opportunity to voice their opinions and contribute to shaping the outcomes of the meeting. The presenter asked participants to contribute in sharing their own thoughts in exploring how a connected library field can meet the challenges of the future. The conclusions from the workshop would be summarized in a report, which will be sent back to IFLA. Based on the report, the library field would develop concrete work plans on how to put all the collective visions of the future into practice.

The PIALA Executive Board also met during the conference to discuss issues in the best interest of the association and its members. Below were results from the Executive Board meetings that were updated and shared during the general meeting that was on Friday, November 17, 2017 at the College of Micronesia-FSM from 9am to 12 noon.

## First Part of the Meeting was on the:

**- PIALA Strategic Plan (2017-2020):**

- Updates from all the Goal Managers on progress of their assigned Goals.
    - **Strategy 1: Strengthen the Association**
        - PIALA Treasurer - Manger for Goal Strategy 1.1: We will ensure that PIALA is a financially sustainable organization.
        - PIALA Secretary – Manager for Goal Strategy 1.2: We will improve communication within and beyond the profession.
    - **Strategy 2: Strengthen the Profession**
        - Imengel Mad - Manager for Goal Strategy 2.1: We will enhance the knowledge and skills of information professionals. (Not in attendance.)
        - Atarino Helieisar – Manager for Goal Strategy 2.2: We will promote the profession to the community.
        - Roland San Nicolas – Manager for Goal Strategy 2.3: We will facilitate the sharing of information in the region.

**SECOND PART:**

**A. Treasury report**

- Reported on how much PIALA collected from the last PIALA conference in Yap.
- Reported on the association expenses, dues received, and what was collected during the 27th Annual Conference from selling t-shirts, registration, membership dues, and the silent auctions.
- And how much PIALA currently has in the Checking Account at the Bank of Guam.

**B. Election of officers**

- During the General Meeting, election of President and took place:
    - New PIALA President: Ms. Erlinda Naputi (CNMI)
    - New PIALA Secretary: Mr. Michael Williams (Kosrae)

*** PIALA Executive Board and members expressed thanks and appreciation to the outgoing PIALA President Ms. Schutz from the Republic of the Marshall Islands and*

*PIALA Secretary Mrs. Jennifer Helieisar from the State of Pohnpei for their dedication and support to PIALA during their services as officers.*

**C. Others:**

- Up-Coming host for the PIALA Annual Conference:
    - *Kosrae State Library Association (KSLA) will host 28th PIALA Annual Conference, November, 2018 in Tofol, Kosrae State, Federated States of Micronesia.*
    - *Guam Library Association (GLA) will host the 29th PIALA Annual Conference, November, 2019 in Guam, USA.*
    - *Chuuk Association of Libraries (CAL) will host the 30th PIALA Annual Conference, November 2020 in Weno, Chuuk State.*

- Members also wanted to know if there was any letter from HLA or vise-versa as partner library associations like the previous years each association sent letters through members and emailed each other. The partnership letters were usually read during the opening ceremony or the general meeting to all members. Some of the letters were included in the PIALA proceedings.

## PIALA Closing Ceremony & Reception:

LAMP took the closing ceremony & reception to the village of Enipein in Kitti, one of the municipalities in Pohnpei, for participants to observe in live and be part of the tradition and customs that still existed until today. The ceremony started out with the traditional sakau pounding ceremony followed with food and concluded with awards to all presenters and delegates from all entities took the floor to present their gifts, group songs, and dances.

The Closing Reception was sponsored by PIALA to thank and show appreciation to all members who took time off their very busy schedule to join the 27th PIALA Annual Conference as presenters or participants in this year's annual conference in the Pohnpei.

LAMP Association wishes to convey its appreciation and heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of the 27th PIALA Annual Conference, November 13-17, 2017. LAMP thanks the following individuals, businesses, and offices for their support and generous donations to the LAMP Association, thereby ensuring the conference was successful.

**Donors/Supporters:** Black Sand Stores / Caroline Fisheries Corporation / College of Micronesia-FSM, DCR Office / College of Micronesia-FSM, LRC /College of Micronesia-FSM, National Campus / College of Micronesia-FSM, Pohnpei Campus / College of Micronesia-FSM, President's Office / College of Micronesia-FSM, Vice-President of Instructional Affairs / Dr. Merlynn Abello-Alfonso, Genesis Hospital / Fr. Kennedy Urumolug / Friends of the Pohnpei Public Library / FSM Congress Library / FSM Congress, Office of the Vice Speaker / FSM Congress, ED #1 / FSM Congress, ED #2 / FSM Congress, Pohnpei Delegation / FSM Development Bank / FSM Office of NACH / FSM Supreme Court Law Library / Hon. Fernando Scaliem & Family / Hon. Churchill Edward, Director of Education / Mr. Joseph Saimon, Chief of Staff, Pohnpei State / Pohnpei Arts & Crafts / Pohnpei Public Library / Pohnpei State Governor's Office / Pohnpei State, Department of Education / R.S. Roque Commercial Arts / Triple S Store, Awak Pah / Youth -4-Change / Vital-FSM Petroleum Corporation /

See you all in the state of Kosrae at the 28th PIALA Annual Conference.