



Pacific Workforce Investment Workgroup

Regional Workforce Development Council Member Profile



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Edith DeLeon Guerrero
WIA Director



FSM - Yap
Jesse Salalu
Neighboring Islands School Administrator



FSM-Pohnpei
Grilly Jack
Vocational Training Coordinator



FSM—Pohnpei
Wehns Billen
Development Officer



FSM— Dept of Education
Jesse Sidney
FSM National Government



Republic of the Marshall Islands
Marie Madison
Director, National Training Council



FSM— Pohnpei
Kadalino Demarlene
Pohnpei Dept. of Education



Republic of Palau
Josephine Ulengchong
WIA Director



Guam
Celine Aguilar
Guam Dept of Labor



Guam
Maria Connelley
Director, Guam Dept. of Labor



Guam
Peter R. Barcinas
GWIB Board Member

Training capacity and availability of a skilled workforce are inherent challenges when facing job shortages resulting from a massive buildup. The need for skilled labor in the construction industry alone has created enormous challenges for Guam that require aggressive training recommendations and solutions to satisfy the demands. While the impact will primarily affect Guam's workforce, a regional approach has emerged, as it is expected that neighboring island citizens will seek employment opportunities on Guam. To address these issues, the Guam Department of Labor has established working relationships with local, regional and national officials. On August 9, 1999, President Clinton established the Interagency Group on Insular Areas (IGIA) through Executive Order Memorandum. The Memorandum states that IGIA shall work with the Secretary of the Interior to identify issues concerning American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands (collectively, "insular areas") and to make recommendations to the President concerning Federal Government policies and programs raising such issues. The last two meetings, the Chair of the Labor Subcommittee, Civilian Military Task Force has attended to address the many concerns facing workforce development on Guam and in the Region.

To further the efforts at the regional level, meetings have been held with the Federal Regional Council. The Federal Regional Council (FRC) is a consortium of seventeen separate federal departments and agencies representing nearly thirty program offices in Region IX (Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, and the Pacific Islands) working in partnership to better serve the public. Its goal is to work in a coordinated manner to make federal programs more effective and efficient in Region IX. The FRC currently has six committees focused upon broad geographic areas and special populations in the vast expanse of Region IX and one of which is the Outer Pacific Committee. The intent of the quarterly meetings with Regional Administrators is to address issues brought up at the IGIA meetings in Washington DC and to foster communications and solutions to meeting federal program mandates.

At the local level and referred to as Western Micronesia, the Chief Executives of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI), Guam, Yap and the Republic of Palau held the eight Western Micronesian Chief Executives Summit (WMCES) in CNMI on November 13-17, 2007. The summit reaffirmed the commitment of each of the participants, on behalf of their people and governments to establish closer ties, enhance existing ties, expand future decisions and agree on initiatives for the benefit of the entire Micronesian Region. The Regional Workforce Development Council was created during the 5th WMCES and charges with the development of initialing strategic goals for year one and two. This includes the following items endorsed by the Chief Executives: Alignment of workforce development, vocational education and other training programs, and leveraging resources; Collaboration, integration, and formation of partnerships with the private- sector; and Creating and implementing training programs for demand-driven occupations.

In addition, the Chief Executives endorsed the recommendations of the RWDC through a signed resolution as follows: Conduct Regional Resource / Asset Mapping; Conduct Military Impact / Workforce analysis, including the alignment of: Alignment of funding systems to build leveraging opportunities with regional partners; Improvement of access to funds through grantsmanship; and Assessment of policy impact of foreign labor; Develop communication framework for collaboration (council Administration Center, funding support, staff support, in-kind and administrative cost); Develop framework for goals and objectives covering years one and two.

As a result of the resolution passed at the 8th WMCES, the Labor Subcommittee took the lead in convening the first RWDC meeting to encourage communication among the region stakeholders in developing the five-year regional workforce development plan that will result in effective and streamlined delivery of training programs within the region.



Micronesian Chief Executives

