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Communication No. 27 (2024)

August 29, 2024

MEMORANDUM
Hon. Brenson S. Wase
Speaker of the Nitijela of the Republic of the Marshall Islands
Majuro

Yokwe Speaker Wase,

I am writing to submit my trip report on the 4th Pacific Islands Parliaments Group (PIPG) Conference that took place in Koror, Palau from 14th to 17th August 2024. Firstly, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to you for selecting me to represent the RMI Nitijela at this important conference. It was truly an honor to be chosen for this role and to have the opportunity to participate in such a prestigious event.

The PIPG conference brought together parliamentarians from across the Pacific region to discuss key issues facing our nations and to work towards finding solutions that will benefit all our people. The theme of this year's conference was *"Human development in Oceania: How can legislatures strengthen people-centered security for the Pacific Islanders?"* and the discussions and presentations were incredibly insightful and thought-provoking.

I would like to once again thank you for entrusting me with this important responsibility. I have returned from the PIPG conference with a renewed sense of purpose and a wealth of new ideas and perspectives that I look forward to sharing with my colleagues in the RMI Nitijela. I am confident that the connections made and the knowledge gained at this conference will have a lasting impact on our work moving forward.

Thank you again for this opportunity.

Sincerely,

Senator Dennis P. Momotaro
Mejit
Chairman, FAT Committee

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Trip Report: 4th Pacific Islands Parliaments Group (PIPG) held in Koror, Republic of Palau from August 14th - 17th, 2024.

This month, I had the amazing opportunity to attend the 4th Pacific Islands Parliaments Group (PIPG) in Koror, Republic of Palau. The theme of this year's conference was "Human development in Oceania: How can legislatures strengthen people-centered security for the Pacific Islanders?" The conference brought together parliamentarians from 18 member countries including American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Hawaii, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Rapa Nui, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna. It was a truly enlightening and educational experience.

The conference began with an official opening ceremony program that set the tone for the rest of the event. The sessions were organized around various topics related to human development and security in the Pacific region.

Session I focused on people-centered development and human security in the Pacific islands countries amidst global changes. We discussed the need for legislative bodies to prioritize the well-being of our people, especially in the face of environmental, economic, and social challenges.

In Session II, we delved into the issue of food security in the Pacific. We learned about the various initiatives and policies being implemented to ensure that our people have access to safe and nutritious food, even in the face of climate change and natural disasters.

Session III was particularly interesting as we explored the opportunities and risks associated with the digital world, especially in terms of cybersecurity and cyber safety in the Pacific. It was eye-opening to learn about the potential threats posed by cybercrime and the importance of safeguarding our digital infrastructure.

Session IV and V focused on addressing gender-based violence and illicit drugs trafficking in the Pacific, respectively. These are pressing issues that require urgent attention and concrete action from our legislative bodies. It was inspiring to see parliament members from different countries coming together to brainstorm solutions and strategies to combat these challenges.

The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) attended the conference as an observer. One of the key discussions I had with a UNDP representative centered on the potential for RMI to join the PIPG. Consideration was given to the benefits of membership, including access to resources and expertise, as well as the potential challenges and obligations that come with membership. The decision on whether or not RMI should join the PIPG is all up to the Nitijela.

Overall, the 4th Pacific Islands Parliaments Group was a valuable experience that broadened my understanding of the issues facing our region and the role of legislatures in addressing them. I left the conference feeling inspired and motivated to continue working towards the betterment of our Pacific Island nations, most especially the Marshall Islands.

Senator Dennis Momotaro
Mejit
Chairman, FAT Committee

08/29/24