

PACIFIC news

Palau

The 9th Festival of Pacific Arts took place in Palau this past July. The festival, held once every 4 years, drew participants from 27 Pacific countries and territories and attendees from around the world. The festival celebrates traditional and contemporary arts of all kinds, from tattooing to theatre. The next Pacific Arts Festival will be held in 2008 in American Samoa. More information about the Palau festival is available at www.festival-pacific-arts.org.

Photo: Caroline Yacoe



▷ Hemty Clement of Namdrik Atoll in RMI demonstrates traditional Marshallese canoe making at the Pacific Arts Festival.

Yap

On April 9, Typhoon Sudal hit Yap with winds of 125 mph and devastating flooding. Because the storm coincided with the high tide, much of Yap's capital and commercial center of Colonia was under water at the height of the storm surge. Though there were no casualties, 80% - 90% of the island's structures were destroyed or severely damaged. Betel nut, taro, and other crops on the island were also devastated.

Yap's schools suffered extensive damage from the storm as well. The remainder of the 2003-2004 school year was cancelled, and nearly all of the island's schools will open late for the 2004-2005 school year.

RMI

The Ministry of Education has adopted the Cluster-PTA school improvement model. The model brings parents, teachers, and community stakeholders from each school together in three clusters that are organized by grade level and focused on national benchmarks and assessments. The model, which was originally conceptualized and developed in Majuro and Ebeye schools by the RMI Parental Information and Resource Center at PREL, will now be adopted nationwide.

CNMI

Antonio V. Deleon Guerrero was named president of Northern Marianas College on July 29. He had been acting president since Kenneth Wright's resignation in February.