

Tofol, Kosrae

The 4<sup>th</sup> FSM NCD (Non-Communicable Diseases) Conference was recently held in the state of Kosrae. Held at the Rose Makwelung Memorial Library, participants of the conference included the Governors of Chuuk and Kosrae, Hon. Johnson Elimo and Hon. Lyndon Jackson, as well as the Acting Secretary of the FSM (DoHSA) Department of Health and Social Affairs - (Mr. Arthy G. Nena) and various state directors of state department of health. This venue presented an opportunity for State Coalitions and Partners/Stakeholders along with Program Staff for updates, to address pending issues and efficiently strategize ways forward combating the current NCD epidemic in our islands.

Mr. Arthy G. Nena, Acting Secretary of DoHSA, opened the conference and the Governor of Kosrae, Hon. Lyndon Jackson gave the keynote address supporting the efforts of the conference.

The FSM NCD Unit, a division under the FSM DoHSA, whose task is to monitor and coordinate state NCD-related programs, conducted its annual conference to discuss the Nation's current status on the NCD Crisis and review its "roadmap out" of the situation.

This year's conference (2015) theme, "Connect, Commit & Combat – a roadmap out of the crisis" served most appropriately as the involved programs had the opportunity to recommit its efforts, reconnect with supporting programs as well as connecting with potentially new partners to combat this current health epidemic. Among the invited partners include the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Island Food Community of Pohnpei (IFCP), as well as other NGOs (Non-Government Organization).

With over 70+ participants, ranging from governors and department head to program coordinators and staff and the interested stakeholders, the conference outcome include the drafting of a resolution to be shared with the legislative sectors of each state to help address each state's NCD concerns. Highlights of the resolutions include adoptions of amendments to Breast and Cervical Cancer Management Guidelines, Licensing of betelnut vendors, adopting a modified NCD surveillance plan and the reinvigorating of the MODFAT (Micronesia One Diet Fits All Today) campaign.

Speaker of The Legislature of Pohnpei, Hon. Fernando Scaliem, along with members of the Pohnpei State Legislature and the Speaker of Legislature (Guam) Hon. Judith Won Pat were present on the final day of the conference to voice their encouragement as well as to witness the address and signing of the resolution.

The conference was held from November 30<sup>th</sup> to December 04<sup>th</sup> 2015.