

NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY 2004–2010



FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA
Department of Health, Education and Social Affairs



Australian Government
AusAID



SPC
Secretariat
of the Pacific
Community



NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY 2004–2010

FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA
Department of Health, Education and Social Affairs



© Copyright Secretariat of the Pacific Community, 2006

All rights for commercial / for profit reproduction or translation, in any form, reserved. SPC authorises the partial reproduction or translation of this material for scientific, educational or research purposes, provided that SPC and the source document are properly acknowledged. Permission to reproduce the document and/or translate in whole, in any form, whether for commercial / for profit or non-profit purposes, must be requested in writing. Original SPC artwork may not be altered or separately published without permission.

Original text: English

Secretariat of the Pacific Community Cataloguing-in-publication data

National youth policy 2004–2010 / Federated States of Micronesia.
Department of Health, Education and Social Affairs.

1. Youth Government policy – Micronesia. 2. Young adults –
Micronesia – Conduct of life – 21st century.

I. Title. II. Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

305.235'966

AACR2

ISBN 982-00-0148-X

Published by the Pacific Youth Bureau
SPC Noumea

Layout and design: Muriel Borderie – Photos: David Becker, Jipé Le-Bars
SPC Noumea

Printed at SPC Printery Noumea, New Caledonia



Memorial

This policy document is dedicated to the memory of Jefferson B. Benjamin, DrPH. Dr. Benjamin served as the Secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Social Affairs from October 2003 until his untimely passing on 6 July 2004. Dr. Benjamin devoted himself to the study and practical activities done for the advancement of health in the Federated States of Micronesia. Under his guidance and encouragement the first draft of the National Youth Policy was successfully completed during the 11th Annual Youth Leadership Conference held in March 2004 in Pohnpei State. It is only proper that we honor his final wish for this policy as indicated in the last paragraph of his foreword to this policy document:

“As we join together in implementing this policy and fulfilling its objectives, may our joint actions help us to confirm our common wish to live together in peace and harmony, to preserve the heritage of our past, and to protect the promise of the future.”

The FSM Youth Pledge¹

We, the young people of the FSM, in re-affirming our allegiance to the FSM Constitution hereby pledge to continually uphold the aspirations² of the Constitution so we may live together in peace and harmony, to preserve the heritage of the past, and to protect the promise of the future as we seek from each other peace, friendship, cooperation and love in our common humanity.

With hearts, voice and hand, we pledge to be productive members of our native land, through positive contributions to building a fair and just society, constant observance of existing laws, values and norms, and maintaining respectable personal conduct, attitudes and character with a dutiful sense of loyalty, responsibility, integrity and dignity.

With faith as our source of inspiration, righteousness as our guiding light, and determination as our strength, may our differences enrich us, our diversity³ unite us, as we strive for a prosperous homeland for ourselves and the future generations of this great nation – Micronesia.

¹ The FSM Youth Pledge is modeled on the visions of the Preamble to the FSM Constitution and the FSM national anthem. It is designed to promote a 'spirit of national pride' and a 'sense of belonging' amongst young people in the FSM, and serves as a reminder of the desired behaviors and actions necessary for building a productive, fair and just society.

² The hopes, desires and expectations of the Constitution for the people of the FSM.

³ Varying principles.





Preface

The final revision of this document took place during a meeting of the designated reference group on 27 August 2004, at the Department of Health, Education and Social Affairs (HESA) conference room. The policy document was reviewed and edited before submission to the Department of Justice for legal sufficiency review and comment. It was returned to HESA for compilation and finalized before again being resubmitted to the Department of Justice for another legal review. A draft resolution was formulated by the Department of Justice and submitted to the President's Office for approval and to prepare for its transmittal to the Office of the Speaker for the FSM Congress to consider during the March 2005 Congressional Session.

The President sent this revised edition for further consultation with all government departments. Comments received at HESA were in favor of the revised edition of the policy document. The President's message indicated that this revised edition was to be prepared for submission to Congress for consideration during the May 2005 Session.

During the 12th Annual Youth Leadership Conference, held in Weno, Chuuk from 25 to 28 April 2005, the revised edition was presented for implementation. Training in the implementation was conducted for all available youth stakeholders, service providers and officials during the inaugural meeting of the Youth Council at the conference.

It was also during the conference that a call was made to adopt the revised edition of the National Youth Policy during the Congress Session in May 2005. Therefore, it is my duty to submit this revised edition to the President and Congress for their favorable consideration and adoption.

The National Youth Policy has been devised with considerable input from representatives of FSM youth organizations. The intended target of the policy is the nation's youth. Its implementation will require a great deal of commitment and assistance from parents, faith-based organizations and other non-governmental organizations – in particular, youth groups.

***The Honorable Nena S. Nena,
Secretary of HESA***





CONTENTS

	Page
The FSM Youth Pledge.....	3
Preface.....	4
Abbreviations	6
Resolution 10-1.....	7
FSM Overview.....	9
1. FOREWORD.....	11
2. PREAMBLE	13
3. BACKGROUND.....	15
3.1 Rationale for This Policy	15
3.2 Policy Framework	15
3.3 Development of the Policy	15
3.4 Definition of Youth.....	17
3.5 Youth Profile	17
3.6 Priority Target Groups	21
3.7 Rights and Responsibilities of Young People	22
3.8 A Brief History of Youth Services in the FSM	23
4. MISSION STATEMENT	24
5. POLICY OBJECTIVES	25
6. POLICY STRATEGIES	26
6.1 Youth and Education	26
6.2 Youth and Health.....	27
6.3 Youth in Economic Development	30
6.4 Youth with Strong Cultural Identities.....	33
6.5 Youth and Spirituality	35
6.6 Youth and the Environment.....	37
6.7 Youth and Justice	39
6.8 Youth with National Pride	42
6.9 Institutional Strengthening, Capacity Building and Coordination	44
7. IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISM	46
7.1 Policy Implementation and Coordination	46
7.2 Performance Monitoring and Evaluation.....	47
8. RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS	49
9. CONCLUSION.....	50
Acknowledgements.....	51
References	52



Abbreviations

AIDS	acquired immune deficiency syndrome	NYO	National Youth Office
ARH	adolescent reproductive health	NYP	National Youth Policy
CNMI	Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands	PIALA	Pacific Islands Association of Libraries and Archives
COM-FSM	College of Micronesia – FSM	PTA	Parent–Teacher Association
COYED	community youth education	PYB	Pacific Youth Bureau
CSP	Conservation Society of Pohnpei	PYC	Pacific Youth Council
DEA	Department of Economic Affairs	PYS2005	Pacific Youth Strategy 2005
DOE	Department of Education	SAMH	Substance Abuse Mental Health
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency	SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
FBO	faith-based organization	STI	sexually transmitted infection
FSM	Federated States of Micronesia	TNC	The Nature Conservancy
FSMYC	FSM Youth Council	UCC	United Church of Christ
HESA	Department of Health, Education and Social Affairs	UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
Hon.	Honorable	USP	University of the South Pacific
HIV	human immuno-deficiency virus	VAD	vitamin A deficiency
MODFAT	moderate fat diet	YOB	youth-owned business
NGO	non-government organization		



Resolution 10-1

The 10th FSM Annual Youth Leadership Conference on 20 February 2002 adopted Resolution No. 10-1 as follows:

A RESOLUTION

Reaffirming the Resolution adopted by the 9th FSM Annual Youth Conference in Yap State in 2001, requesting the Municipal Chief Executives, the Governors of the FSM states and the Secretary of the FSM Department of Health, Education and Social Affairs to promote, within their decision-making systems, the appropriation of resources vital for the inclusion of youth within a vibrant economy and a dynamic society.

WHEREAS⁴, the 10th FSM Annual Youth Leadership Conference convened in Kosrae from February 19 to 20, 2002; and,

WHEREAS, recognizing that young people are valuable resources for our respective states and the nation, and taking into account the challenges facing the young people of the FSM; and,

WHEREAS, noting especially the escalating problems faced by young people of our states and country in the areas of: education, employment, sexual and reproductive health, mental health and suicide, law-breaking and crime, alcohol and drug abuse, family, cultural and religious differences and environmental health; and,

WHEREAS, being aware of the limitations of current approaches and existing programs and opportunities available for the development of youth in the FSM; and,

WHEREAS, being mindful of efforts made by individual states, non-government organizations, churches and national, regional and funding organizations; and,

WHEREAS, recognizing that different states may require different approaches to respond to youth challenges and having considered working papers for addressing youth concerns in the nation into the 21st century; and,

WHEREAS, accepting the need for collaborative⁵ action among state and national organizations, non-government organizations, traditional leaders, governments, administrators and donors to work together to more holistically address the challenges affecting the youth in the FSM; and,

WHEREAS, having a vision of a dynamic and vibrant nation that involves youth within overall national development, and realizing this vision, through state-specific activities, national initiatives, political commitment⁶ and donor support; and,

WHEREAS, further agreeing that the most benefits for the FSM states will be achieved through continuous political commitment towards the adequate allocation of resources for planning and carrying out activities for youth at the state level, collaboration by all actors with an interest for youth at the national level, and effective partnerships between development agencies and state and national authorities; and,

⁴ In declarations of this kind, the word 'Whereas' carries the same meaning as 'While'.

⁵ Joint action amongst various organizations.

⁶ Assurance of government support.



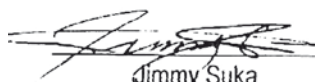
WHEREAS, further agreeing that programs focus on: developing and carrying out policies⁷ and programs, improving leadership, management and organizational capacities, developing and strengthening networks and information systems, and protecting our environment; and,

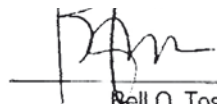
WHEREAS, the 10th FSM Annual Youth Leadership Conference has identified critical areas for an FSM National Youth Policy; and,

WHEREAS, the 10th FSM Annual Youth Leadership Conference has developed an Action Plan for developing the FSM National Youth Policy: now, therefore,


BE IT RESOLVED, that the 10th FSM Annual Youth Leadership Conference requests the Secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Social Affairs of the FSM National Government, the Governors of the four states of Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei and Yap, and all municipal government Chief Executives in the four states of Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei and Yap to deliberate on these and promote within their decision-making the allocation and appropriation of resources vital for the inclusion of youth within a vibrant economy and a dynamic society; and,


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Secretary of the Department of Economic Affairs, Finance and to the President of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Chairman of the FSM Congress Committee on Health, Education and Social Affairs and the Chief Justice of the Federated States of Micronesia.


Jimmy Suka
Chuuk State Delegate


Bell O. Tosie
Kosrae State Delegate

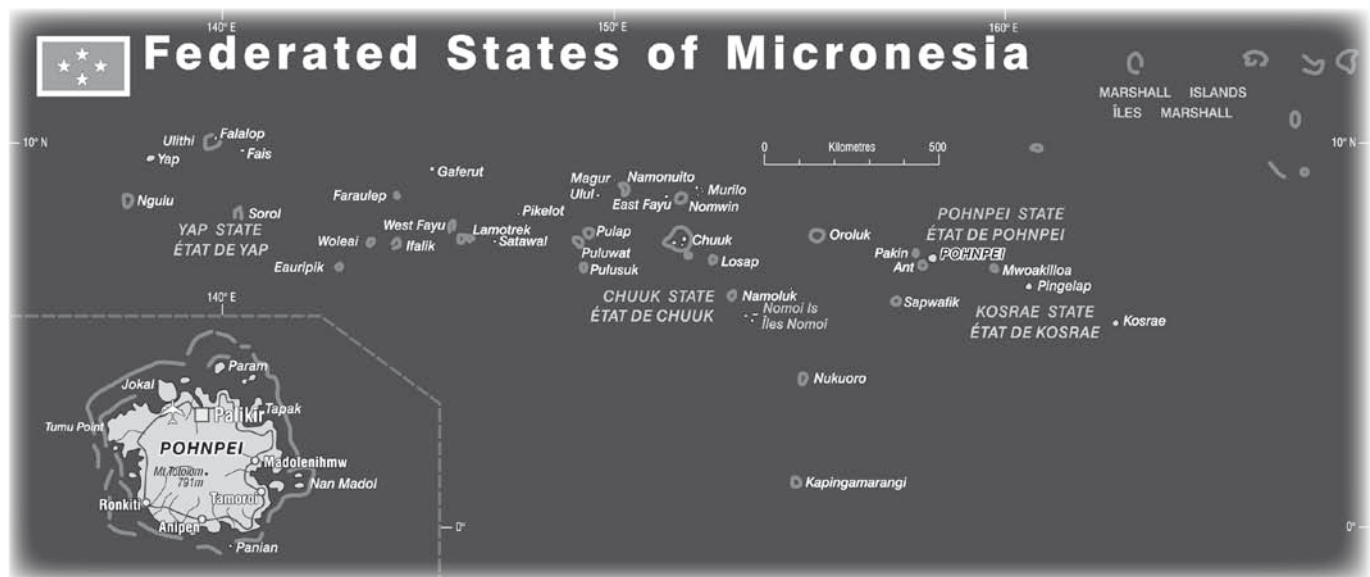

William Eperiam
FSM National Delegate


Person Joseph
Pohnpei State Delegate


Peter Rebeuluch
Yap State Delegate

⁷ A plan, course of action or principles adopted to guide, influence and determine decisions and actions.

FSM Overview



Introduction

The Federated States of Micronesia, known as the Caroline Islands in the early 16th century, is an island nation with a culturally diverse and geographically dispersed population and a developing economy. It is comprised of the states of Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei and Yap. From Yap in the west to Kosrae in the east, the FSM consists of 607 different islands (of which 71 are uninhabited) spread over 2,500,000 square kilometers of the north-western Pacific. The total land area is about 270 square kilometers.

Location

The FSM lies between 1 degree south and 14 degrees north latitude, and between 135 and 166 degrees east longitude.

Population

According to the 2000 population census, the FSM has a total population of about 107,008, of which 51% is male and 49% is female. The population is distributed unevenly through the FSM. Chuuk State is the most populous, with 53,595 people – a little more than half the total population. Pohnpei State has about 34,486 people (about 32% of the total population), Yap State has 11,241 (about 11%) and Kosrae State has 7,686 (about 7%). The annual population growth rate for the FSM is 0.3%.

Brief History

Spanish and Portuguese explorers came upon the Caroline Islands in the early 16th century, with the Spanish administration claiming the island group as part of its growing Pacific empire. The Spanish ruled the Caroline Islands from 1886 to 1899.

Germany purchased the islands from the Spanish in 1899 and ruled until 1914.

At the outbreak of World War I in 1914, Japan seized the islands from Germany and ruled them from 1914 to 1945.

The island group was then handed over to the United States and was part of the US Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (TTPI) from 1947 until 1986.

In May 1979, the four islands of Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae united to form the FSM, which became a sovereign independent nation in 1986 under the Compact of Free Association between the FSM and the United States.

Government

The FSM Government was inaugurated⁸ on 10 May 1979. A unicameral⁹ Congress is elected by popular vote and the Congress elects a President and Vice-President from among its 14 members.

⁸ Ceremony to formally establish and recognize a new government in office.

⁹ Having or consisting of a single legislative chamber.



The government is divided into three branches.

1. The executive branch under the President includes a number of departments. A Secretary, who is a Cabinet-ranking official, heads each national government department. Each department is responsible for the administration and direction of services for each of the four states: Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei and Yap. Within this structure, more specific responsibilities are assigned at the divisional level, each division headed by a Chief.
2. The Congress consists of 14 members – six from Chuuk, four from Pohnpei, two from Yap and two from Kosrae – and their support staff.
3. The judicial branch consists of the FSM Supreme Court, headed by a Supreme Court Chief Justice.

Each of the four states has a popularly elected governor and legislature¹⁰. Legislative members represent a particular geographical area in their state; there are no political parties.

The administrative structure of government is repeated at state level with executive, legislative and judicial branches. The executive has the same structure from state to state, although the exact department names sometimes vary.

¹⁰ Elected representatives.

Economy

Improving the standard of living of Micronesians is the primary concern of the FSM government. This task is made difficult by rapid population growth and reductions in Compact funds.

In the past few years, subsistence¹¹ production, distribution of goods (wholesaling and retailing) and the provision of government services have dominated the FSM economy.

For its future economic strategy, the FSM Government is focusing on activities recognized as providing long-term growth potential and comparative advantages to the FSM. These include commercial agriculture, marine and fisheries, and tourism. In addition, there is a special focus on strengthening public-sector reform efforts, speeding up private-sector development to create jobs, replacing the reduction in Compact assistance, and improving efficiency of land use and human resources.

There is also a push for sustainable¹² development through strengthening of environmental planning, introduction of the concept of accounting for non-renewable resource depletion, strengthening of participatory community planning in resource management, and the preservation, development and revitalization of the unique and diverse cultures of the FSM.

To support these initiatives, the FSM education system has focused its reform planning on changes needed to meet the economic and social development needs of the FSM. Its strategy¹³ is to develop the basic life skills, thinking skills and personal qualities needed for individual and group economic and social development, and to promote the languages, values, attitudes and beliefs that make Micronesians unique as a people.

¹¹ Producing goods for use within the home.

¹² Ongoing development that is able to continue for a long period of time.

¹³ The FSM National Youth Policy supports this initiative and proposes activities designed to achieve the same purpose, with young people playing key roles as active agents for development in the FSM.



1. FOREWORD

by Dr. Jefferson Benjamin, former Secretary of HESA



Adolescence¹⁴ is a time of rapid growth and change. Therefore, young people need opportunities to develop in a positive way. Some of the ingredients necessary for them to develop in a positive way are a

sense of competence¹⁵, a sense of usefulness and a sense of belonging.

As part of our efforts towards furthering positive development of young people in the FSM, it gives me great pleasure to present the **FSM National Youth Policy 2004–2010** as a framework.

A journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step. The FSM National Youth Policy is the first step towards guiding the effective planning, delivery and monitoring of development programs for our young people during the period 2004–2010. This policy conveys a vision for enabling the young people of the FSM to develop and implement initiatives that will contribute to improving their quality of life. Therefore, the general focus of the policy is towards creating appropriate programs that will develop the full potential of young people, guide them in dealing with personal issues of concern, help them contribute to sustaining their families, and encourage them to actively participate in community-strengthening activities, thereby contributing towards developing a sense of national pride and building a better and more prosperous FSM for all.

The discussions that took place during the development of this policy revealed that we need to move beyond focusing on the negative labels associated with young people towards understanding their needs and helping them create the right solutions for meeting those needs.

I believe we also need to avoid responding to youth issues in an ad hoc way and be more organized in our approaches to planning and implementing youth development initiatives.

One of the important lessons we learned from developing this policy is that we in the youth development sector need to move away from addressing youth problems in an uncoordinated manner towards a more inclusive approach where there is better coordination, communication and collaboration between the various organizations that have a role in youth development. To ensure success in implementing the policy, it is necessary that positive linkages be established and maintained between the national and state governments, the FSM Youth Council, non-government organizations, faith-based organizations (religious groups), communities and village youth organizations, traditional leaders, families and the private sector.

Without a doubt, the most important lesson we have learned from this exercise is that for youth programs to be effective, young people must be active participants in the process of developing, implementing and evaluating them. This process gives them opportunities to express their opinions where they count, develop their ability to make correct choices in life, and learn and use new skills. Therefore, I sincerely urge all young citizens of Micronesia to actively participate in the process of developing and implementing programs arising out of this policy.

As secretary responsible for youth development in the FSM, I believe that new conditions call for new strategies. And developing new strategies, rather than just reorganizing old ones, requires helping people to think in new ways. Accordingly, this policy proposes a wide range of programs aimed at addressing youth issues more effectively. In addition, it recognizes existing programs currently contributing to addressing the needs of specific youth target groups in the FSM.



¹⁴ The period of development from the onset of puberty to maturity (also referred to as the period of development between youth and maturity).

¹⁵ Ability to do things well.



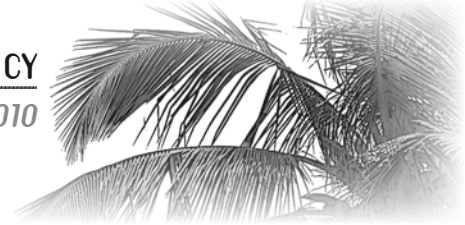
In recognizing the enormous contribution and effort put into the development of this policy by many individuals and organizations, too many to mention by name, I sincerely thank everyone who has contributed in various ways. May I also stress that it is desirable that this spirit of cooperation be extended towards carrying out and monitoring the policy. Kalangan, Kammagar, Kulo, and Kilisou Chapur.

As we join together in implementing this policy and fulfilling its objectives, may our joint actions help us to confirm our common wish to live together in peace and harmony, to preserve the heritage of our past, and to protect the promise of the future.

Hon. Jefferson Benjamin, DrPH
Secretary

Department of Health, Education and Social Affairs
FSM National Government





2. PREAMBLE

The FSM has one of the youngest populations in the Pacific region, with a median¹⁶ age of 18.9 years. A young population places extreme pressures on national and state budgets. If the situation is not addressed effectively, it will have a major impact on the well-being of FSM youth. While the extended family endeavors to ensure for its young people the best possible opportunities in life, there is a major concern that its value as a social and community services network is being threatened by social and economic change. Therefore, in addition to acknowledging and respecting the rights of youth, there is a need for young people themselves to take more responsibility for their own well-being and be prepared for the challenges they will face.

A major challenge for the FSM Government over the past few years has been to clearly identify the key issues affecting young people and develop appropriate responses to those issues. This challenge was overcome through literature research and reviews carried out by HESA and consultations¹⁷ with key stakeholders in the youth development sector and with young people themselves. These processes took place from 2002 to 2004. The consultations identified the following areas of concern that need urgent attention.

- » **Education** – *There is a need to promote more suitable non-formal and informal educational initiatives.*
- » **Adolescent health** – *There is a need to strengthen health education and promotional programs aimed at addressing youth health.*
- » **Economic development** – *There is a need to create and maintain structural solutions to promote the participation of young people in the development of the economy through the development of more youth training programs to foster self-employment and income-generation activities.*
- » **Cultural identity** – *There is a need to develop and foster cultural appreciation.*

- » **Spiritual development** – *There is a need to strengthen and promote spiritual development.*
- » **Environment protection** – *There is a need to widen environmental education and promote practical initiatives.*
- » **National pride** – *There is a need to provide a wide range of public and leisure activities for young people that will foster the development of healthy self-esteem¹⁸ and a sense of community spirit.*
- » **Institutional strengthening, capacity building and coordination** – *There is a need to improve the coordination of youth programs and activities at national, state and local levels and to strengthen national and local youth organizations and networks.*
- » **Juvenile justice** – *There is a need to create a system of justice administration that recognizes the special requirements of youth and responds in a manner that appropriately supports the needs of the community and of the juvenile.*

To help young people develop the necessary skills and appropriate attitudes to effectively face the challenges of life, while at the same time actively participating in the development of our nation, a number of guiding principles are necessary to point the way forward.

1. **Creating enabling conditions** – An empowering¹⁹ environment gives young people a sense of direction and purpose. Youth empowerment focuses on enabling young people to have a say in decisions that affect them. It involves guiding them in their attempts to navigate the complexities of life. Proper guidance, coupled with building positive attitudes and fostering integrity and values, will enable young people to make informed choices about their future.

This policy empowers youth. It will create and maintain an environment that gives young people faith in the future and a sense of self-confidence. Personal growth is fostered in young people when they are encouraged to develop leadership, life skills

¹⁶ The age at which half of the population is younger and half older

¹⁷ Meetings to discuss issues and exchange views and ideas.

¹⁸ High regard or pride in oneself; good opinion of oneself; having self-respect.

¹⁹ An environment that gives young people the right to do certain things.



and a sense of personal responsibility, and to make positive contributions to their communities.

2. **Promoting a spirit of cooperation and partnership** – With the limited resources available for social development, positive results can be achieved through a coordinated response to meeting the needs of young people.

This policy calls for a multisectoral²⁰ approach through stronger collaboration between the national government, state governments, State Youth Councils and youth officials, municipal and community organizations, key stakeholders, parents and young people themselves. This approach will foster the sharing and effective use of resources.

3. **Making positive contributions to national development** – Adolescence is a difficult stage of life when young people go through the human development process of changing from a young person to a mature adult. Helping them achieve positive outcomes for their efforts during this period will give them confidence to progress to a lifetime of continued personal growth.

Positive development in society is possible when young people actively participate in the decision-making process, leading to the advancement of their communities. Through this participation process, young people gain a sense of belonging to society and this in turn motivates them to use their energy for constructive and positive activities.

With their contributions to community advancement, young people develop the feeling that they are useful members of society and can become healthy, self-reliant, resourceful and productive adults.

4. **Gender inclusiveness²¹** – This policy recognizes the precious qualities and talents of all young men and women in the FSM and places special focus on gender inclusiveness in its approach to the development and implementation of youth programs.

Through this approach, the basic constitutional rights and privileges of all young men and women are fully recognized through the equitable distribution of services, resources and benefits regardless of gender²², geographic location, social, cultural or economic circumstances.

By having equal access to appropriate programs, all young men and women are able to coexist in harmony and have equal opportunities to nurture their leadership skills and develop their full potential as they embark on their journey through a sustainable life.



20 Involvement of many related organizations and sections of the community.

21 Ensuring men and women have equal opportunities to participate in and benefit from the proposed activities.

22 The state of being male or female as expressed by social or cultural distinctions.



3 BACKGROUND

3.1 Rationale For This Policy

The problems currently associated with youth in the FSM raise a great need for a national response to addressing youth issues. This policy is that national response. It fully supports the visions of the FSM National Economic Summits²³. Directly linked with the approach used by the Economic Summit Planning Framework of 1999–2002, this policy serves as a tool for enabling young people to actively contribute to national development and improve their quality of life in the process.

The FSM is party to a global movement towards better addressing the needs of young people. At the 1st Conference of Youth Ministers of the Pacific Community held in Tahiti in July 1998, the ministers adopted the Pacific Youth Strategy 2005 (PYS2005), administered by the Pacific Youth Bureau (PYB) of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC). One of the programs of PYS2005 (Programme 1: Pacifika Aspirations) encourages the full participation of young people in the development, implementation and evaluation of holistic²⁴ and gender-inclusive national youth policies in member countries of the Pacific community. Furthermore, the ministers decided that these policies were to be in place by the year 2005.

Other international initiatives calling for the development of national youth policies include the United Nations World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, the UNICEF Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Commonwealth Youth Programme's Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment.

In developing this policy, the FSM makes an important connection with a regional and global effort towards addressing the needs of young people more effectively.

By implementing the initiatives spelled out in this policy document, it is expected that the situation of young people will be improved and the nation will strengthen its human resources for social and economic development.

3.2 Policy Framework

This policy attempts to respond to youth concerns in two ways. On the one hand, some of the recommended programs are direct responses to problems affecting youth in the FSM. On the other hand, some are creative ways of improving young people's self-esteem so they can be motivated to plan better for their future and achieve their goals in life. In some circumstances, the programs seek to embrace both approaches – for example, responses by the justice sector deal with youth (crime and offending) problems while at the same time endeavoring to promote opportunities to reintegrate juveniles back into the community to become worthwhile contributors to society.

This policy therefore offers a mix of recommended programs for addressing the needs of young men and women. These programs are identified in Section 6 of the document. It is anticipated that they will encourage all young people to take responsibility for realizing their full potential. Through the programs, our young people will be more aware of the many challenges that are likely to have a negative impact on their livelihoods, and they will be able to take sensible steps towards dealing with those challenges.

Also built into the policy are various mechanisms for recognizing the unique contributions young people make to the development of society.

Directly linked to each of the recommended programs and activities are performance indicators, which are to be used as benchmarks for measuring the outcomes and impacts of the policy. Also included are clear indications of the key organizations responsible for carrying out the recommended activities.

Given the nature of the FSM economy, a major factor that threatens the successful implementation of the various strategies outlined in this policy is how to finance them. Funding arrangements for supporting the implementation of the policy are outlined in Section 8.

3.3 Development of the Policy

The FSM Department of Health, Education and Social Affairs coordinated the development of the policy with financial and technical assistance provided by the Australian Embassy in Pohnpei and the PYB of the SPC, based in Noumea, New Caledonia. Editing and proof-

²³ High-level meetings organized by the FSM Government to determine national development priorities.

²⁴ Concerned with complete wholes rather than analysis or separation into parts; creating a national policy aimed at coordinating various aspects of youth development instead of just implementing programs for specific purposes.



reading of the working draft was carried out by Ms. Alison MacConnell of Micronesia Red Cross.

The policy development process had its humble beginnings back in 2001, when the first training program on the development of the National Youth Policy was conducted at the 9th Annual Youth Leadership Conference, held in Yap State, by the SPC Youth Development Adviser, Mr. Tangata Vainerere. This was followed up with another training program at the 10th Annual Youth Leadership Conference, held in Kosrae State in February 2002. Resolution 10-1 was adopted at the 2002 conference and marked the first real action towards the development of the first draft of the policy.

To bring Resolution 10-1 into reality, a Policy Steering Committee – comprised of the late Mr. William Eperiam, FSM National Youth Coordinator, as Chairperson, and committee members Mr. Rainer Jimmy of the US Peace Corps and Mr. Person Joseph of Pohnpei State Youth Office – was established and given responsibility for appointing additional members to the committee to coordinate the development of the policy.

A working draft was produced for further consultation, then circulated to the State Youth Offices for further review. Further consultations took place at national and state levels, which resulted in further revisions. Another round of consultations took place at state level to further refine the working draft.

A literature review conducted in early 2004 by the SPC Youth Development Adviser resulted in the alignment of the policy to a number of national documents, including the FSM Constitution, *Proceedings of the 2nd FSM Economic Summit* (1999) and *FSM Planning Framework 1999–2002*. Other documents used as references in fine-tuning the policy are listed at the end of this document. In addition, education leaders, teachers from the FSM, NGO leaders, national and local government leaders and international organization representatives provided input.

To complete the production of the first draft, Mr. Osaia Santos, National Youth Activity Coordinator for the FSM, organized the 11th Annual Youth Leadership Conference. This conference took place in Pohnpei State from 15 to 18 March 2004 and was chaired by Mr. Patterson Shed (representing COM-FSM), with Peace Corps volunteer Ms. Julia Freed as recorder and Ms.

Fancelyn Perman of HESA as conference secretary. Mr. Tangata Vainerere served as facilitator for the conference.

The conference was opened by the Hon. Jefferson Benjamin, Secretary for Health, Education and Social Affairs, with Father Francis Hezel delivering the keynote address.

Conference participants included Mr. Bell Tosie, Youth Program Coordinator, Office of Community Affairs, State of Kosrae; Mr. Person Joseph, Pohnpei State Youth Coordinator/Boy Scouts; Ms. Jane Elymore, FSM Gender and Development/Nutrition; Mr. Largo Edwin, Peace Corps Pohnpei representative; Mr. Rainer Jimmy, Peace Corps Micronesia; Mr. Hinden Alexander and Mr. Walburg Hadley, Micronesia Bound, Inc.; Mr. Jesse Torwan, Division of Youth, Yap State; Mr. Joe Commor, Chief, Division of Youth, Chuuk State; Ms. Eileen Y. Mackenzie, Girl Scout Representative; Major Scott Nicloy, Salvation Army; Rev. Tosiwo Lewi, Secretary-General of the United Church of Christ; Ms. Melyann Mallarme, Red Cross Youth Programs; Ms. Sweeter Daniel, Women in Sport, National Olympic Committee; Mr. Kent R. Cheipot, Director, Department of Public Affairs, Chuuk State; Mr. Mike Loyola, Pohnpei State Sport Director; Ms. Brihmer Johnson, Statistics Specialist, FSM Statistics; Father Joseph Cavanagh and Sister Martha Joel, Catholic Church; Ms. Alison MacConnell, Micronesia Red Cross; Mr. Hermis Edmund, Catholic Youth; Mr. Henry Wilson, Ms. Lucia Donre-Sam, Ms. Penselynn Etse and Mr. Edwin Sione, COM-FSM; Ms. Carlyn Marino, United Methodist Youth Organization; Ms. Jessica Werner and Ms. Valerie Perez, Peace Corps; Mr. M. Giovanni Puzalan, PMA Youth; and Mr. Sebastian Tamagken, Yap Secondary Transition Program.

During the conference a National Youth Policy Reference Group, made up of 13 representatives, was established as a mechanism for reviewing the draft policy at various stages of its development. The group had its first meeting on 24 March 2004 to review the draft before it was released for further consultation at national and state level. Following this review, the first draft was released publicly to enable further consultation with young people, youth service providers and the general public.

After several months of revisions and adjustments, a second draft was produced. The Reference Group met again on 27 August 2004 and reviewed this draft before



it became a final document and was submitted to the Department of Justice for legal review.

The development of the policy included drawing upon other FSM projects focusing on the needs of youth. Throughout 2005, the FSM Department of Justice undertook a project exploring a range of juvenile justice issues. The FSM Juvenile Justice Project was funded by AusAID under the auspices of the Human Rights Small Grants Scheme. Extensive consultation with community members and justice stakeholders occurred in all four FSM states, resulting in the development of 20 Juvenile Justice Principles, justice administration guidelines and draft statutory provisions for the states to consider. Issues relating to juvenile justice outlined in this policy emanate from the findings of the FSM Juvenile Justice Project.

Following the legal review process, the final draft was produced and submitted to the President's Office for official approval and adoption. The policy was then ratified during the 14th Congress, on 15 November 2005, as Congress Resolution 14-6. This process paved the way for policy implementation.

3.4 Definition of Youth

To ensure effective focusing and monitoring of programs and activities as well as planning for the resources required to support the programs, **this policy defines 'youth' as all persons (male and female) between the ages of 15 and 34 years.**

It must be noted that statutory provisions contained in the various states' Codes of Criminal Law (or similar) define a juvenile as any person under the age of 18 years. This legal definition does not limit the scope of this policy to address justice issues that may impact on all youth. The term 'juvenile' encompasses all young persons, whether they have offended or have been the victims of crime.

To ensure that the objectives and overall vision of the policy are achieved, every young person in this age group is encouraged to actively participate in the implementation and evaluation of the activities arising out of it.

In acknowledgement of the nature of community participation in the FSM, it is expected that there will be many people under 15 and over 34 years old who wish

to be a part of the exciting journey of implementing the policy. Accordingly, the policy allows them the opportunity to participate actively in any of the activities and initiatives promoted by it.

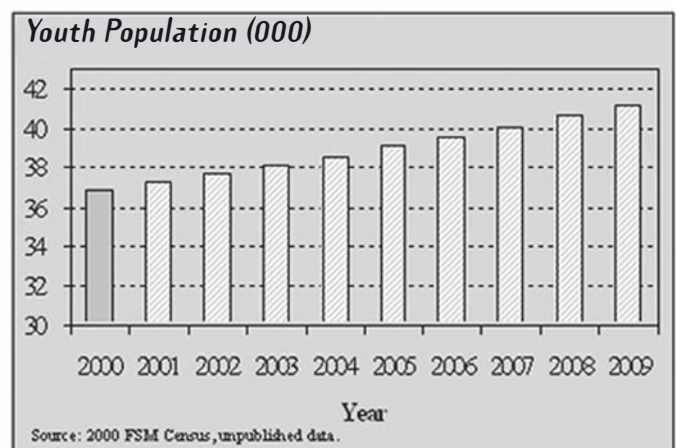
In addition, there are a number of specific groups of young people in the country who require special attention in addressing their needs. These groups are clearly identified and briefly described in Section 3.6 of this document.

3.5 Youth Profile

In 1994 there were about 34,740 youth (15–34 years) in the FSM, comprising 32.9% of the total population.

According to the FSM 2000 National Census of Population and Housing, the youth population had increased to about 36,854 in 2000, representing 34.4% of the total population.

The youth population for 2004 stands at about 38,603²⁵, which is nearly 35.4% of the total population of the FSM. The projection for the year 2010 puts the youth population at just over 41,200 – that is, about 4,300 additional persons over a period of nine years, or about 477 persons per year.



²⁵ Estimated figures.



Youth population distribution by gender and state

Table 1. Distribution of youth population 15–34 years by gender and state: 2000, 2004, 2009

	Population									Sex ratio (males per 100 females)		
	2000			2004			2009			2000	2004	2009
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female			
FSM	36,854	18,459	18,395	38,603	19,222	19,382	41,108	20,330	20,778	100.3	99.2	Figures not available
Yap	3,756	1,720	2,036	3,797	1,744	2,065	3,866	1,803	2,108	84.5	84.5	
Chuuk	18,757	9,541	9,216	20,021	10,142	9,899	21,757	10,963	10,872	103.5	102.5	
Pohnpei	11,827	5,979	5,848	12,040	6,083	5,964	12,318	6,232	6,113	102.2	101.9	
Kosrae	2,514	1,219	1,295	2,676	1,252	1,453	2,913	1,333	1,686	94.1	86.2	

Source: Division of Statistics, FSM

Note: 2004 and 2009 data are provisional estimates; not to be cited without permission

As indicated in the sex ratio figures in Table 1, the sex ratio shows that there are more females in the youth population than there are males. The structure of the youth population in 2004 was largely dominated by males, but

eventually there will be a majority of females. This trend is experienced in all the states, but at different levels, and presents the need for future strategies to shift their focus towards female issues, especially in Kosrae and Yap.





Youth population growth rate

Table 2. Youth population and growth rate: selected years

	Population				Annual growth rate		
	1989	1994	2000	2004	'89-'94	'94-'00	'00-'04
FSM	30,435	34,740	36,854	38,535	2.65	1.07	1.11
Yap	3,453	3,717	3,756	3,797	1.17	0.19	0.27
Chuuk	14,467	17,157	18,757	20,021	3.41	1.61	1.63
Pohnpei	10,341	11,544	11,827	12,040	2.20	0.44	0.45
Kosrae	2,174	2,322	2,514	2,676	1.32	1.44	1.56

Source: Division of Statistics, FSM

Note: 2004 data are provisional estimates; not to be cited without permission

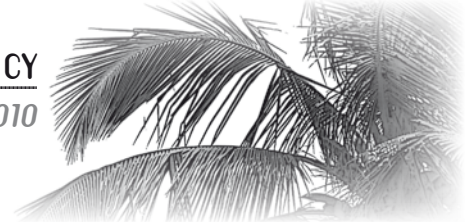
Between 1989 and 2004, the youth growth rate was not extreme, but it was growing positively²⁶. Between 1989 and 1994 the overall annual rate was 2.67%, declining to about 1.1% in the last period observed. In other words, the youth population was still growing, but not at the rate it had been in the previous period.

The three main things that influence the growth rate are births, deaths and migration (i.e. people coming into the country and those going out). When children are born, they add to the existing population. When people die, they are subtracted from the population. When people leave the country they are deducted from the population, and when they come into the country they are added.

Some reasons for the declining growth rate include:

- » net emigration (people leaving the country) – results of censuses in CNMI and Guam show increased number of FSM nationals;
- » government restructuring in the late 1990s, which led to early retirement schemes and the departure of many families from the FSM; and
- » international recruiting programs (Sea World, Busch Garden, nursing programs, etc.) tempting young people to take up jobs in other countries.

²⁶ Population growth can go in three directions. POSITIVE – The population is increasing. For example, if the youth population was 100 last year and is now 110 it has 'positively' increased by 10 people, or 10%. ZERO – The population is stable or remains the same. In the example above, if the number of youths is also 100 this year, zero growth has been experienced. NEGATIVE – The population is decreasing. Also using the example above, if the number of youths was 100 last year but decreased to 95 this year, it has grown 'negatively' by -5%.



Implications of growth of youth population

Table 3. Functional sub-groups in the youth population: 2000, 2004 and 2009

Ages	Indicator affected (ages for indicator)	2000	2004	2009
Both genders				
15–17	High-school enrollment (14–17 years)	8,211	8,599	9,112
18–24	College enrollment (18–24 years)	14,551	15,495	16,742
15–34	Labor-force participation (15+ years)	36,854	38,603	41,108
Females				
15–34	Fertility (15–49 years)	18,395	19,382	20,778

Source: Division of Statistics, FSM
 Note: 2004 and 2009 data are provisional estimates; not to be cited without permission

As indicated in Table 3, a growing youth population can mean an increase in:

- a) **high-school enrollment** – the number of students eligible to attend high school will increase by about 100 per year, which means that education services will need to provide additional resources (classrooms, teachers, materials, etc.) to cater to the increased number of students;
 - b) **college enrollment** – the number of students eligible to attend college is expected to increase by 250 per year, which will pose a similar situation to that described in the previous paragraph;
 - c) **labor-force participation** – the number of young people entering the workforce is expected to increase by 495 per year, which means there will not be enough employment opportunities for all youth; this will have negative social impacts; and
 - d) **fertility** – with an increasing youth population, the number of young women at risk of getting pregnant will increase by about 265 individuals per year; this will have an impact on population.
- i. **School dropouts** – *those who find themselves in the unfortunate position of having to drop out of the formal education system too early.*
 - ii. **Youth who are sexually active** – *those who are involved in early sexual activity, resulting in unplanned teenage pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections.*
 - iii. **Youth who are involved in substance abuse** – *those who engage in risky behavior like experimenting with and regularly using addictive substances, such as alcohol, cigarettes and drugs.*
 - iv. **Youth with physical and mental health concerns** – *those who are under physical, mental or emotional stress, and those who are at risk of getting non-communicable diseases.*
 - v. **Youth with special needs** – *those who are handicapped with disabilities, thereby requiring special consideration and support.*
 - vi. **Youth in violence** – *those caught in situations of domestic violence and abuse, and those with tendencies to engage in violent activities.*
 - vii. **Youth with low income** – *those who are in hardship situations and not engaged in full-time employment or other meaningful economic activity, and those who are not able to identify and benefit from any viable means of generating a cash income.*

3.6 Priority Target Groups

While this policy is directed towards addressing the needs of all young men and women in the 15–34 age group, it is also necessary to identify certain groups within the overall policy target group that need special attention. These groups are considered most at risk in terms of educational opportunities, employment and health problems.



- viii. **Youth who are not culturally conversant**²⁷ – *those who are lacking in cultural knowledge and appreciation and are not normally engaged in cultural activities and practice.*
- ix. **Juvenile offenders** – *those who are involved in negative and reckless behaviors, such as law-breaking and other illegal activities.*
- x. **Juvenile victims of crime** – *those who have been the victims of criminal offences and require support/assistance to resume normal functioning within the community.*
- xi. **Idle youth** – *those who are not involved in any meaningful, productive or organized activities that bring benefits for themselves or for society in general.*

To ensure that these categories of young people receive maximum benefit from the policy, those key agencies directly responsible for planning and implementing policy initiatives are urged to ensure their active participation in the process of planning and implementing youth programs and activities.

Through this policy, implementing agencies are also authorized to create and implement:

- » specific programs and activities for addressing the needs of these priority target groups; and
- » ‘family-oriented’²⁸ programs that involve families in developing creative activities to address the needs of the priority target groups.

3.7 Rights and Responsibilities of Young People

a) Rights of Young People

In agreement with the provisions of various sections of Article IV of the FSM Constitution and other international conventions, this policy proposes that FSM youth be entitled to:

- » fundamental freedoms in accordance with the governing laws of the FSM;
- » appropriate services and benefits that will ensure their physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development;
- » a healthy and secure social and physical environment that promotes a healthy lifestyle;
- » an education from early childhood to the highest level possible;
- » proper care and guidance from parents and caregivers, who take responsibility for the young people’s upbringing at home and in the community;
- » participate in decision-making processes related to issues that affect them; and
- » freedom from unfair treatment, violence and abuse in any form.

b) Responsibilities and Obligations of Young People

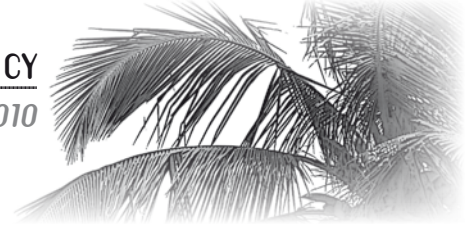
This policy urges all young people to make active and positive contributions to the development of their society. In exercising their rights as outlined above, they are intently urged to:

- » respect the laws, values and norms of society;
- » take initiatives to become productive and self-reliant members of society;
- » protect and conserve the environment for future generations;
- » be respectable and positive role models and mentors for other young people; and
- » share their skills, knowledge and enthusiasm for the benefit of other young people and the community.

Note: This policy (in addition to the Rights and Responsibilities of Young People outlined above) also acknowledges and endorses the 20 FSM Juvenile Justice Principles.

²⁷ To be familiar with or to associate with – especially applicable to youth who have grown up outside their own culture, as well as those who move within the FSM.

²⁸ Examples are: parenting skills development; family relationship strengthening; communications training programs; career development, goal setting and life-skills training for youth; etc.



3.8 A Brief History of Youth Services in the FSM

Since the 1960s, the churches have played a major role in organizing youth programs in the villages. Although the emphasis has been on spiritual development for every person in the community, specific programs for youth have been organized by the churches, including singing contests, Sunday School sessions, Bible studies classes, drama sessions and youth rallies. These programs continue to this day and are likely to continue for years to come.

The Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts in the FSM have organized youth development activities since the late 1970s. Today, the Girl Scouts organization remains an FSM-based program while the Boy Scouts are linked with the Aloha Council of Hawaii. These programs are popular among youth and are set to remain part of the youth development scene in the FSM.

Pohnpei Agriculture and Trade School (PATs) is a private high school that specializes in agriculture, construction and mechanics. The school admits students from all over Micronesia.

The Micronesian Red Cross Society, based in the Capital State of Pohnpei, employs some young people and has many youth volunteers involved in its programs.

In 1976, the Aramas Kapw Program was started in Pohnpei, later becoming a non-profit organization called Micronesia Bound, Inc. It is based on the concept of Outward Bound, an international program that aims to instill trust, self-confidence and self-esteem in young men and women. It is a journey towards understanding oneself and taking responsibility for and having the self-confidence to work hard towards self-improvement.

In the late 1970s, youth offices were developed under the Justice Improvement Commission throughout the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, comprised of the Marshall Islands, Pohnpei, Truk (Chuuk), Saipan, Yap and Belau (Palau). The programs conducted by these offices became the basis of youth development programs in the islands throughout the 1980s.

Peace Corps Micronesia has a Youth and Community Development Program that emphasises family and community, small business development, and citizenship.

Several components are addressed in its Family Life sector, including health and wellness, family life-skills training, peer education training, prevention of HIV, and alcohol awareness. In its Development area, entrepreneurial skills, employability skills and literacy and numeracy are taught.

One important ongoing program in the FSM is the United States Work Force Investment Act. Under this act, funding is made available for job corps, vocational education and apprenticeship programs for both adults and youth. T-3 is another funded program for youth both in and out of school who are interested in learning electrical, construction and mechanical skills.

In the 1990s, the FSM Government established a position in HESA to address youth issues, coordinate programs, and provide funding and technical assistance for the FSM.

In 1996, the creation of the Micronesia Youth Development Association boosted the youth development scene. Guided through its by-laws, the association has conducted numerous state youth conferences, now known as the FSM Annual Youth Leadership Conference and held every year in each of the states of the FSM. At the same time, the association has maintained strong working relationships with the Youth Office and Department in each state.

At the national level, a Youth Unit within HESA coordinates the Government's youth program. At state level, each state has a Youth Interest Office, normally located within the Office of Social or Community Affairs.

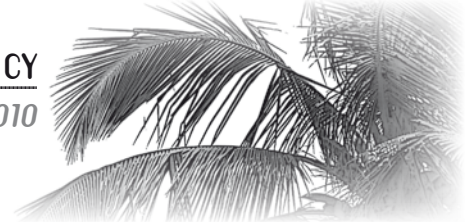
Over the past two decades, government youth programs have generally focused on conducting training in a wide variety of areas for young people, such as research and development of new and innovative youth programs, capacity building and institutional strengthening initiatives, promoting networks and collaboration amongst youth organizations, organizing seminars and conferences on pressing youth issues, and providing counseling services to youth in need of special assistance.



4 MISSION STATEMENT

“To create an environment in which all young men and women of the Federated States of Micronesia are inspired to become responsible and self-reliant members of the community through the development of their full mental, social, spiritual and physical potential.”





5 POLICY OBJECTIVES

The following objectives have been devised for the key strategy areas of the policy. They identify what will be achieved through the policy initiatives throughout the policy period. These achievements will in turn contribute to accomplishing the Mission Statement.

Objective 1: To encourage ongoing learning through non-formal and informal education.

Objective 2: To strengthen and foster the physical, mental and emotional well-being of young people.

Objective 3: To encourage the active participation of young people in the realm of economic development.

Objective 4: To promote respect and appreciation for the cultural heritage of the FSM through strengthening initiatives relating to performing arts, crafts, traditions and language.

Objective 5: To foster the spiritual development of young people and encourage them to maintain the moral and spiritual principles found in the various faith traditions of the FSM.

Objective 6: To promote and implement educational awareness programs and practical projects focusing on the conservation and protection of the environment and sustainable use of natural resources.

Objective 7: To support a system of justice that recognizes and respects the special needs of juveniles and aims to restore social harmony, make amends to victims and reintegrate offenders into the community.

Objective 8: To nurture national pride and maintain a spirit of cooperation and partnership among the youth of the FSM.

Objective 9: To strengthen the capacity and effectiveness of youth organizations in the planning and delivery of youth programs, promoting youth networks, and implementing, monitoring and evaluation of the National Youth Policy.



6 POLICY STRATEGIES

6.1 YOUTH AND EDUCATION

Objective: To encourage ongoing learning through non-formal and informal education.

Overview

In order for young people to become productive members of society, they need to be educated. The FSM runs a US standard education system, adapted from the US model, with free public education for all children and mandatory attendance through age 15 or the completion of 8th grade. High-school attendance is not assured for all students. All states offer and administer high-school entrance tests to 8th-graders.

Continuing vocational and educational opportunities are available through COM-FSM, the FSM's only institute of higher education, as well as universities in the United States and US territories under the Pell Grant. The University of the South Pacific in Fiji offers regional scholarships as well as educational opportunities through training centers in member countries of USP. Also available is the AusAID scholarship, which is offered through the Australian Embassy. The aforementioned examples of educational or governmental assistance offer financial aid for higher education.

While recognizing that education in general should enable young people to enter the employment market, this policy proposes that education should be a process that prepares a young person for life's challenges. The policy advances this view on the basis that education does not only take place in schools, but also exists in terms of non-formal and informal education. Workshops organized by NGOs, vocational courses, distance education and apprenticeships²⁹ are all examples of non-formal education, or learning by observation and action. Mentoring and peer interaction are other examples of non-formal education that complement formal education.

In this regard, the policy encourages the planning and delivery of suitable training programs that will improve the chances of young people leaving the formal education system of succeeding in life. This can be achieved through specially designed non-formal training programs in areas such as enterprise development, home management, goal setting, leadership, self-esteem development, hospitality, organic farming, fishing, eco-tourism and any other area deemed to have potential for providing young people with opportunities for self-improvement. (Examples of organizations providing this type of training include Micronesia Bound, Inc., Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Peace Corps, Salvation Army, Red Cross, Pacific Stars Life Skills Program, Women in Sports, local youth organizations and faith-based organizations.)

All of these initiatives need to be backed up by opportunities for informal learning amongst young people in order to give them an extra edge towards achieving their life goals and aspirations. This policy promotes the belief that young people need to develop a hunger for ongoing learning that will be demonstrated by the independent pursuit of new knowledge, otherwise known as informal learning. It is also important for youth to have the courage to explore new ideas. For this to be possible, young people need to believe in their ability to succeed and develop their self-esteem, adopt and maintain a positive mental attitude, fine-tune their decision-making skills, improve their communication skills, learn how to set challenging but realistic life goals, develop action plans for achieving those goals, and strengthen their relationships with those who can help them achieve their goals, as well as learn from their mistakes and ask for help when they need it.

²⁹ Agreements that allow trainees to work in a business enterprise in exchange for instruction, as in a trade.



Strategies, Outcomes and Responsible Agencies

Strategies	Intended Outcomes	Responsible Agencies
1. Conduct training programs in cultural/traditional preservation, the first of which is to begin within the first year of acceptance of the National Youth Policy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young people gain a better understanding and appreciation of their cultural heritage. 	State Youth Offices, women's and youth groups, NGOs
2. Every state to conduct annual training programs on self-esteem development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More confident and productive young people in Micronesian society. 	Women's and youth groups, FBOs, NGOs, governments
3. Within five years, a 15 per cent increase in young people who are computer literate by teaching computer skills and enabling young people to enter the workforce.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in qualified young people entering the workforce. 	State Youth Offices, public/private schools, Public Library, women's and youth groups, Peace Corps
4. Encourage young people to pursue ongoing learning about new and old ways in the culture.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young people consistently interested in informal cultural activities. 	PTA, NGOs, State Youth Offices
5. Strengthen and promote mentoring programs that are currently in existence while creating similar programs within the four states by 2007.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young people become more positive and well-adjusted members of society. 	State Youth Offices, women's and youth groups, public/private schools, primary health care, Peace Corps
6. Educate young people in small business development as well as income-generating activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young people better able to independently support themselves and their families. 	State Youth Offices, women's and youth groups, Peace Corps, Small Business Development Office

6.2 YOUTH AND HEALTH

Objective: To strengthen and foster the physical, mental and emotional well-being of young people.

Overview

A good health-care system is essential for a productive workforce and a satisfactory standard of living. The FSM Government has designated this as one of its priority development activities.

All young people must be physically, mentally and spiritually healthy in order to live a healthy lifestyle. Youth can attain physical well-being through exercising and participating in sports, maintaining good nutrition and leading a safe and active life. They can achieve mental health by sustaining positive role models, thinking optimistically and being able to make the right decisions. Finally, they can achieve spiritual health by having faith in themselves, their religion and their cultural beliefs. All of these levels of health can be achieved through education and awareness.

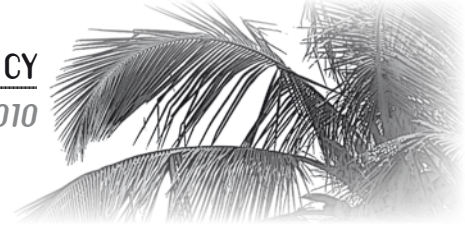
The ideal situation is for young people to take full responsibility for their own health by adopting and practicing healthy lifestyles, and contributing to building healthier families and communities. The benefits include healthier living habits in the FSM despite budget constraints.

National and state government organizations, NGOs, FBOs, youth organizations and schools promote healthy living. Health programs should have the vision that FSM citizens will be making informed healthy choices and having healthy behaviors and attitudes. Areas of awareness and education include physical fitness, substance abuse, mental health, nutrition, HIV and STIs, adolescent reproductive health, family planning, immunization, prenatal care and disease prevention. Programs can help to reduce stress, obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure, STIs, unplanned and early childhood pregnancy, and disease.

For all of these goals to be achieved, key agencies must coordinate and collaborate to support, sustain and promote healthy lifestyles among youth. Finally, they need to strengthen their efforts towards education and awareness.

**Strategies, Outcomes and Responsible Agencies:**

Strategies	Intended Outcomes	Responsible Agencies
1. Four to five health training sessions, workshops and seminars to be held per year throughout the FSM, and 10 annual events.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduce unplanned and early teenage pregnancies by 50% by 2010 and increase awareness of consequences.• Increase awareness and decrease incidence of HIV and STIs by holding 3–5 events annually in each state.• Reduce number of substance abusers and increase recovery by holding 3–5 events annually in each state.• Decrease incidence of malnutrition among youth by holding 3–4 activities annually in each state; decrease incidence of iron deficiency from 12% to 6%, and VAD from 79% to 35%, by 2010.• Achieve healthy weight levels and higher self-esteem levels by holding 4–5 events annually in each state.• Decrease incidence of diseases such as TB from 54% to 25%, and eradicate leprosy, by 2010.• Increase awareness of consequences and decrease incidence of child abuse and neglect by holding 4–5 events annually in each state by 2010.• More young people acquire life skills because of continual UNICEF/Red Cross training.	State Public Health, national health services, Public Safety Department, DOE, Department of Agriculture, Department of Social Affairs, state and national SAMH, municipal offices, FBOs, NGOs, women's and youth groups, UNICEF/Red Cross, peer counseling at COM-FSM
2. ARH, HIV and STIs and family planning counseling services to be available daily upon request.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduce unplanned and early teenage pregnancies and increase awareness of consequences.• Increase awareness and decrease incidence of HIV and STIs. Each state will target 200–250 youth per year until 2010.	State public health, national health services, private businesses, NGOs, FBOs, DOE, women's and youth groups



Strategies	Intended Outcomes	Responsible Agencies
3. Substance abuse counseling services to be available daily upon request.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce number of substance abusers and increase rehabilitation; reinforce laws. Each state will target 200–250 youth per year until 2010. 	State and national SAMH, Public Safety, NGOs, FBOs, women's and youth groups, DOE
4. Child abuse and neglect counseling services to be available daily upon request.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase awareness of consequences and decrease incidence of child abuse and neglect. Each state will target 200–250 youth per year until 2010. 	State and national SAMH, Public Safety, Social Affairs, DOE, FBOs, NGOs, women's and youth groups
5. Ongoing oral health campaign: awareness, oral checkup, hazards of betel nut and tobacco use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decrease cavities and oral health problems. Each state will target around 500 youth per year until 2010. 	State Oral Health Program, national and state Public Health Departments, local dental clinics, DOE, NGOs, women's and youth groups
6. Ongoing encouragement of daily physical activities: sports, exercise, gardening, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieve higher self-esteem levels and increase youth participation and involvement by 10–15% in each state annually until 2010. 	State Public Health, national Health Department, National Olympic Committee, Social Affairs, DOE, municipal offices, women's and youth groups, FBOs, NGOs, private businesses
7. Ongoing promotion of home gardening and a low-fat, healthy diet (MODFAT).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote nutritious foods by increasing the number of families serving at least 1–2 nutritious meals per day with locally produced foods. Program will target 50–100 families in each state annually. Twenty demonstrations of the MODFAT diet in 10 different communities each year until 2010. 	State Public Health, national Health Department, Department of Agriculture, youth and women's groups, NGOs, FBOs, DOE, CSP, EPA, COM-FSM Landgrant
8. Ongoing suicide prevention through public education and discussions within existing youth organizations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decrease incidence of suicide by 10% by 2006. 	State and national SAMH, Social Affairs, youth and women's groups, NGOs, FBOs, Public Safety Department
9. Ongoing family communication and parenting strategies training.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen family system by holding 4–5 training events per year 	State and national Public Health, women's and youth groups, NGOs, FBOs, DOE



6.3 YOUTH IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Objective: To encourage the active participation of young people in economic development.

Overview

As part of the Economic Summit goals, the FSM Government is directing additional funding towards promoting industry and employment. Agriculture, fisheries and tourism are being targeted for special attention as these areas are seen to have the potential to create employment and generate cash. At the same time, the government cautions that this development is not meant to be at the expense of traditional farming and fishing.

Efforts continue at the national level through the Department of Economic Affairs (Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries) to explore potential cash crops that can be introduced to boost agricultural development. The government will promote and support the Pohnpei Island Agriculture and Trade School in training young people in farming and fishing skills, so that graduates can go on to develop their own farms for both subsistence consumption and sales at the local market. Efforts continue through the Visitors' Bureau to promote tourism development throughout the FSM.

The state governments as well as the national government have been and are likely to remain the largest employers in the FSM. There is a need for the design and implementation of policies and programs to promote employment among young people. The Economic Summit aims to develop the private sector so that more employment opportunities can be generated. Various investment opportunities are now being offered to both locals and non-locals and it is hoped that these initiatives will generate more employment opportunities for young people.

Given the limited scope for governmental employment due to Compact II requirements, this policy advocates more exploration of creative ideas for income generation. It advances the view that having a full-time job is not the only way of earning a living, and encourages young people to explore what they can do to earn an income rather than working for someone else in exchange for pay – in other words, become self-employed in areas such as small business, local food processing, farming, fisheries, tourism, etc. Advice on generating business ideas and developing business plans can be obtained from the Small Business Development Center.





Strategies, Outcomes and Responsible Agencies

Strategies	Intended Outcomes	Responsible Agencies
1. Develop privatization ³⁰ strategies that give preference to viable enterprises owned and operated by youth of Micronesia by 2007.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase number of youth-owned businesses (YOBs) each year. • Decrease migration of youth talent from the FSM by 2010. 	HESA, DEA, youth groups
2. Expand the formal education system to include courses on free enterprise, entrepreneurship and capital-based systems within Micronesia by 2007.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase number of youth participating in business studies by 10% by 2010. • Increase number of YOBs each year. • Decrease migration of youth talent from FSM by 10% per year. • Increase number of youth in full-time employment. 	HESA, state DOEs, youth groups
3. Through financial support, encourage youth to engage in creating businesses that promote economic add-value in farming, fishing and tourism.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase number of YOBs each year. • Increase number of new businesses that provide employment opportunities in the FSM. • Increase number of youth involved in farming, fishing and tourism. 	HESA (education), DEA (fishing, farming and tourism), financial institutions
4. Establish a national scholarship fund for 20 young people per year who major in business development in high school and will pursue business in college.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase number of youth participating in business studies each year. 	Financial institutions (banks), NGOs, private enterprises
5. Create a national campaign beginning in 2005 that promotes "Buy Micronesia, By Micronesia" for locally grown, produced or harvested foods from YOBs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of decrease in importation of foods that can be supplied locally. • Increase number of youth involved in production of local food. 	HESA (youth coordinating teams), DEA (tourism, fishing, agriculture)
6. Establish one Coalition of Youth Economic Development per state by 2006.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four Youth Economic Coalitions established within the policy timeframe. 	Youth groups in each state

³⁰ To change from government or public ownership or control to private enterprise.



Strategies	Intended Outcomes	Responsible Agencies
7. Award contracts to legal enterprises owned and operated by youth of Micronesia.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase number of YOBS in the hospitality area.• Decrease migration of youth talent from the FSM.• Increase number of youth employed per year in the tourism sector.	Small business loans agencies, aid agencies, local grant agencies, financial institutions
8. Provide economic assistance in the form of small business loans, local grants and foreign aid to youth in support of small business farming, inshore fishing, oceanic fishing, sewing and other local craft specialties that promote and enhance the economic base of the local community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase percentage of money available and distributed to YOBS each year.• Increase number of successful YOBS.• Increase number of youth employed by YOBS.	Small business loans agencies, aid agencies, local grant agencies, financial institutions
9. Provide four training and small business workshops per state/year that teach the fundamentals of business creation, finance, marketing, management, sales and manufacturing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase number of YOBS by 10% per year.• 10% increase per year in number of youth employed full-time.	Youth groups, Small Business Development Corporation, NGOs (Micronesia Bound, Peace Corps, etc.)
10. Establish annual local economic-based community youth competitions that showcase the talents of enterprising youth, beginning in 2005.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase number of business start-ups per year.• Increase number of youth participating in youth competitions.	Youth groups, COYED
11. Provide financial incentives to youth who start up or expand small business enterprises that hire three or more employees.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase number of YOBS within policy timeframe.	Small business loans agencies, aid agencies, local grant agencies, financial institutions



6.4 YOUTH WITH STRONG CULTURAL IDENTITIES

Objective: To promote respect and appreciation for the cultural heritage of the FSM through strengthening initiatives relating to performing arts, crafts, traditions and language.

Overview

Cultural preservation is an often-overlooked sector, and one where international cooperation plays a central role. The world's cultural diversity continues to lessen at an alarming rate and Micronesians are an important part of this diversity. The nine distinct languages in the FSM states are perfect examples of the cultural and language diversity of the FSM. The differences in cultural values, norms and practices that prevail require immediate and timely preservation, adoption, application, respect and appreciation by the target youth group.

The FSM's history of having been administered by foreign countries has introduced lifestyles that often clash with traditional values, norms and practices. Four foreign countries have administered the islands with different political, economic, social and even education priorities. The FSM Government has the potential for establishing cross-cultural education programs that strive to create

learning environments (formal, non-formal and informal) where youth can compare and contrast introduced and traditional lifestyles.

The preservation of traditional values, norms and practices is essential to successful development of the tourism industry, yet at the same time these values, norms and practices are threatened by the tourism industry. Balancing the two elements presents a formidable challenge for the FSM. The FSM's natural potential for the establishment and development of viable eco-tourism³¹ awareness activities and events for the youth population will be essential for creating a balance between the preservation of tradition and the establishment/development of the tourism industry. Youth should be made aware of their roles and responsibilities and also be provided with the necessary skills for them to be part of the mechanism for preservation/conservation of flora and fauna and sustainable eco-tourism projects.

This policy strongly promotes the teaching and continuous practice of traditional skills in weaving, wood-carving, local dancing, singing, traditional sports and other cultural practices. Cultural and traditional values are a key foundation for implementation of the policy.

31 Environmentally focused tourism activities





Strategies, Outcomes and Responsible Agencies

Strategies	Intended Outcomes	Responsible Agencies
1. Declare a National Youth Cultural Week that includes a National Youth Award Scheme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declaration of a National Youth Week. • Youth annual gathering. • Enhanced cultural awareness and greater awareness of cultural diversity. 	FSM Youth Coordinator, Secretary of HESA
2. Implement, monitor and evaluate the National Youth Cultural Week.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification and recruitment of potential youth representatives. 	FSM Youth Coordinator, state youth coordinators, municipal offices, youth groups
3. Create a National Youth Volunteer and Exchange Program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National plan creation and operation within policy timeframe. • Strengthen spirit of volunteerism among youth. • Youth learning at least one FSM language. • Sharing of traditional arts, crafts, songs and dances. 	FSM Youth Coordinator, Historic Preservation Offices, COM-FSM, youth groups, NGOs
4. Develop a partnership with PIALA to include youth participation in annual events and conferences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth representation in PIALA. • Maintenance of historic sites by youth groups. • Youth voice in Historic Preservation. 	FSM Youth Coordinator, state youth coordinators, municipal offices, Historic Preservation Offices, municipal offices
5. Encourage local cultural experts to share traditional knowledge and skills in arts and crafts, song and dance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transfer of knowledge and skills. • Shift from verbal to written information. • Inclusion of culture in educational curricula. 	FSM Youth Coordinator, Historical Preservation Offices, DOE, traditional leaders
6. Develop partnerships with traditional leaders in order to promote and maintain traditional conservation practices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transfer of skills from traditional leaders to youth. • Enhanced appreciation and respect for traditional hierarchy. 	FSM Youth Coordinator, state youth coordinators, youth service providers



6.5 YOUTH AND SPIRITUALITY

Objective: To foster the spiritual development of young people and encourage them to maintain the moral and spiritual principles found in the various faith traditions of the FSM.

Overview

In the FSM there exists a variety of churches and religious fellowships. Therefore, the term spiritual development as used in this policy does not attempt to define spirituality in creedal terms. Rather, it is expressed in terms of relationships. Essentially, for the purposes of this policy, 'spiritual development' is defined as a vertical relationship with God that expresses itself in horizontal relationships with other people – namely, relationships with the members of one's family, one's faith fellowship, one's community and even the world at large. In this sense, spiritual development entails several aspects:

1. living a life based upon principles and acceptable standards of behavior that are rooted in one's spiritual tradition;
2. a departure from a self-centered way of thinking and living;
3. embracing a real and consistent concern for others by living a life of service;
4. embracing joyfully the gift of life, as that life is experienced in oneself and in others;
5. a sense of humility, that is, the ability to know oneself as one truly is; and
6. a sense of compassionate and consistent concern for others, regardless of their position in life.

In defining spiritual development in terms of relationships, the implication is made that a young person is not necessarily spiritual just because he/she is active within a religious fellowship. Selfishness, arrogance and a lack of relationships are often noticeable even within a religious context. Consequently, it is possible for a young person to be thoroughly sincere in his/her religious beliefs and yet be driven unconsciously by feelings and desires that are inconsistent with his/her religious faith, e.g. fear,

arrogance and unmet emotional needs.

In summary, the view of spiritual development, as used in this policy, is a dynamic one, not a creedal one. Spiritual development is primarily a vertical relationship with God that leads to a horizontal relationship with the family of origin, the family of faith and the family of humanity. This relational concept concerning spiritual development provides the foundation stone for the strategies, goals and objectives of this policy with regard to the youth of the FSM.



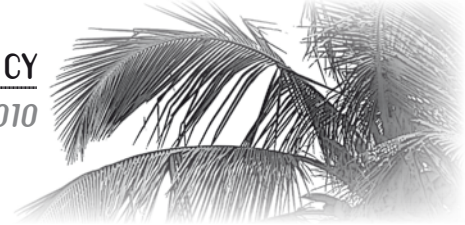


Strategies, Outcomes and Responsible Agencies

Strategies	Intended Outcomes	Responsible Agencies
1. Form a ministerial association among the churches of each state to address common concerns (e.g. youth ministries, HIV and STIs) and to promote church fellowship along common lines while recognizing and respecting differences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each state has its own ministerial association made up of churches that have chosen to participate. Progressive growth, even if the progress is slow. 	Permanent representatives from the UCC, the Catholic Church, and any other church that wishes to participate, government agencies where appropriate
2. Have each State Ministerial Association request on behalf of the churches and all other organizations that national and state government leaders declare non-sectarian ³² days of prayer, days recognizing religious heritage, and proclamations ³³ recognizing the contributions of various churches, ministries and religious societies to the general society.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leaders of ministerial associations contact governmental leaders and other civic leaders to make these proclamations. 	Ministerial Associations, as they grow
3. In order to motivate youth, churches to host events reflecting a common heritage, e.g. hymn sings, special joint Holy Day services, seminars and workshops that address common concerns from a spiritual perspective.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Churches sponsor events that address the concerns of young people. Young people fully participate in events sponsored by churches. 	Participating local churches, church-sponsored local youth groups
4. Churches to promote action groups among Micronesian youth service projects to encourage young people to think about others, invest themselves in their communities, and connect with other people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young people are involved in action group activities. 	Ecumenical action groups of youth under the oversight of the ministerial associations
5. Churches to develop a database of Christians with special skills who can address various issues of common concern to all churches from a Christian perspective.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministerial associations are active. Ministerial associations establish skill bank. 	Ministerial associations' special committees

³² Interdenominational gatherings not limited to members of one particular faith.

³³ Official public announcements made by the government.



6.6 YOUTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Objective: To promote and implement educational awareness programs and practical projects focusing on the conservation and protection of the environment and sustainable use of natural resources.

Overview

Micronesia is one of the few remaining largely unspoiled nations of the world. It is a beautiful country, with lush greenery and rainforest, cool waterfalls, wild waterways, sandy beaches, pristine waters and many species of flora and fauna, some of which are found only in the FSM. Young people can play a major role in keeping the FSM this way for future generations.

The FSM has joined many Pacific Island nations in embracing the concept of sustainable development, although the concept's central elements have been practiced in Micronesia for centuries. With a land area of only 270 square kilometers, preservation of the FSM's natural environment is essential to its future prosperity. Coastal degradation³⁴ is a major concern for some of the islands. This policy advocates more efforts towards educating the younger generation on sensible environment preservation measures.

The wide range of ocean ecosystems within the FSM's control provides the country with one of the most diverse stocks of marine life anywhere in the world. The FSM can benefit from global biodiversity preservation efforts, especially as they relate to marine diversity. Accordingly, the national and state governments are encouraging the establishment of conservation areas where special measures can be taken to conserve the biological diversity of the islands.

To ensure that young people can participate effectively in environment-related initiatives, there is a need to incorporate local, regional and international environmental and sustainable development issues into the FSM national and state formal education systems, through the development of curriculum materials and resources for all levels of formal education.

There is also a need to increase knowledge, strengthen positive attitudes and develop skills in targeted youth groups and organizations so they will have the capacity and motivation to teach their members how to manage the environment in a sustainable manner.

34. Having been reduced in quality and value through erosion or weathering.





Strategies, Outcomes and Responsible Agencies

Strategies	Intended Outcomes	Responsible Agencies
1. Develop specific 'Environmental Educational Awareness' and 'Education for Sustainable Development' materials to different educational levels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased environmental awareness among youth. 	National and state EPAs, NGOs, State Youth Offices
2. Conduct and coordinate training and assistance on the use of specific resource materials relevant to target groups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase resource materials to target groups. 	National and state DOEs, NGOs, CSP, TNC, traditional leaders, youth groups
3. Constantly monitor change in knowledge, skills and attitudes among target groups by periodically evaluating materials and resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report on lessons learned during activities. 	National and state EPAs, NGOs, CSP, TNC, municipal leaders, National Youth Office, State Youth Offices
4. Conduct ongoing training programs, seminars, media campaigns and other relevant actions on priority environmental issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More young people practicing environment-friendly practices. 	National and State Youth Offices, national and state EPAs
5. Develop partnerships with government leaders, traditional leaders, community leaders and leaders of FBOs to encourage young people to be more proactive ³⁵ in their efforts to preserve their environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase collaboration among groups/organizations. Increase youth efforts to preserve the environment. 	National and State Youth Offices, municipal leaders, traditional leaders, FBO leaders
6. Promote community participation in environmental and sustainable development practices and awareness initiatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More community involvement in sustainable environmental practices. 	National and State Youth Offices, youth groups, municipal leaders

³⁵ Acting in advance to deal with an expected problem, difficulty or situation.



6.7 YOUTH AND JUSTICE

Objective: To support a system of justice that recognizes and respects the special needs of juveniles and aims to restore social harmony, make amends to victims and reintegrate offenders into the community.

Overview

Within the FSM, key justice stakeholders include law enforcement, the Attorney-General's Office, prosecutors, court officials (including judges) and corrections. Generally, a person is said to have entered the justice system upon (first) official contact with law enforcement. So, when police respond to a complaint from a victim of crime or officers seek to arrest an offender, the complainant or the offender enters the justice system. They exit the system either when all judicial proceedings have been terminated or when the offender has satisfied all sanctions imposed by the courts (such as the imposition of a fine or sentencing to a term of imprisonment).

Many societies around the world have recognized the need for empowered and accountable systems within justice sectors to deal with youth who offend or become victims. This has resulted in the development of juvenile justice systems that are integrated into and support existing broader criminal justice systems. Such systems enhance the capacity of each justice stakeholder to respond appropriately. The overall aim of such systems is to create a protective environment for youth.

Fundamental to the administration of a juvenile justice system is the recognition of the rights and special requirements of young people. The international community (through the UN General Assembly) has urged governments around the world to adopt legislation that recognizes the special position and needs of youth. Governments are encouraged to create frameworks of additional protection conducive to young people's well-being.

As mentioned previously in this policy, the Convention on the Rights of the Child is an international treaty through which the UN seeks to guide nations. The FSM acceded to this convention on 4 June 1993 and has subsequently adopted a range of Juvenile Justice Principles and administrative guidelines. Consideration is also being given to legislation allowing various diversionary strategies, such as cautions, formal apologies and community conferences.

This policy encourages coordination of activities between justice stakeholders to promote a seamless transition through the justice system by those young people who have offended or become victims of crime. Strategies are intended to assist in the proper administration of juvenile justice by ensuring:

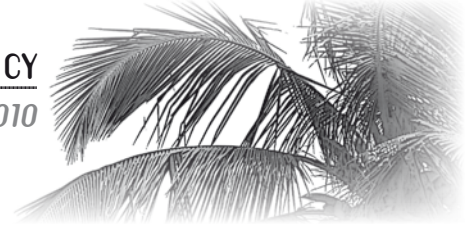
- » protection of the rights of juveniles;
- » appropriate and supportive application of the provisions of the law in relation to youth;
- » a reduction in the demands placed on existing criminal justice workloads through the use of diversionary strategies for youth; and
- » a minimization of the negative impacts of the criminal justice system, particularly on those young people who are victims of crime.

Some strategies are designed to divert juveniles from the criminal justice system. Diversionary strategies also have the effect of empowering communities to be more proactive in dealing with young people, including the reintegrating of youth into society.



Strategies, Outcomes and Responsible Agencies

Strategies	Intended Outcomes	Responsible Agencies
1. Adopt Juvenile Justice Principles and supporting administrative guidelines as a means of acknowledging the special needs of youth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition by justice stakeholders of rights and special needs of youth entering justice system. • Consistency between jurisdictions in manner of dealing with youth and justice issues. 	State justice stakeholders, i.e. police, Attorney-General's Office, courts, prosecutors, corrections
2. Enact juvenile justice legislation which supports diversionary strategies and flexibility in the imposition of sanctions upon youth who have offended.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of nationally consistent juvenile justice legislation. • Development of a range of strategies designed to divert youth from justice system. • Flexibility in imposition of sanctions designed to appropriately respond to individual incidents. • Reduction in demands placed upon justice system and on court workloads. 	State legislature, executive branches
3. Adopt community conferencing as a means of empowering communities to restore social harmony and reintegrate juvenile offenders into the community following occurrences of offending.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater participation by communities in restoring social harmony following incidences of offending. • Enhanced role of communities in the manner in which offending youth are dealt with and reintegrated into society. • Administration of justice that more closely recognizes the needs of communities and of offending youth. • Reduction in demands placed upon justice system and on court workloads. 	State justice stakeholders, community leaders
4. Conduct training for appropriate community representatives to provide skills to enable them to chair community conferences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistency in the manner in which community conferences are conducted. • Skilled community members who are able to ensure justice is properly administered at community level. 	State Attorney-General's Offices



Strategies	Intended Outcomes	Responsible Agencies
5. Develop strategic partnerships between justice stakeholders, appropriate government departments and NGOs in order to support a holistic approach to justice interventions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Justice stakeholders have access to appropriate and expert resources in relation to dealing with offending youth and victims of crime. 	Police, Attorney-General's Office, courts, Health, Education, NYO, State Youth Offices, NGOs
6. Develop appropriate 'Youth and the Law' education programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of a community education resource package on issues relating to administration of justice. Youth have greater access to information concerning the law. 	State Youth Offices, Education, State Attorney-General's Offices, courts, Public Defender's Office





6.8 YOUTH WITH NATIONAL PRIDE

Objective: To nurture national pride and maintain a spirit of cooperation and partnership among the young people of the FSM.

Overview

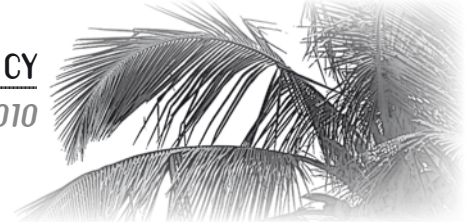
In the FSM, island and community interdependence is normal. Everyone works together in all aspects of community and village life and pitches in to help with the various activities being carried out, whether traditional, civic or religious. This makes for successful communities and villages. This policy should derive an important lesson from that experience and apply it to the youth development scene.

This policy encourages greater cooperation to build strong relationships among youth organizations, which will lead to a strong sense of pride and national identity for young people. Public gatherings, conferences, workshops, national events and other

forms of association have a lot to offer in creating this environment in society. With a focus on promoting mutual respect, understanding, tolerance, peaceful association and solidarity, such activities give young people the opportunity to learn from each other through sharing their experiences and exchanging ideas. They also promote a feeling of caring connection with a range of groups and people with similar interests. Through such opportunities for positive development, young people feel good about being able to develop and maintain healthy relationships with other young people. They also gain valuable opportunities to develop their leadership and organizational skills.

This approach acknowledges that healthy development for young people can be possible through positive connections with their social environment. A key benefit is that a sense of national pride will encourage the values of peace rather than risky and anti-social behavior.





Strategies, Outcomes and Responsible Agencies

Strategies	Intended Outcomes	Responsible Agencies
1. Encourage youth participation in the FSM Games (held every four years).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More young people participating in FSM Games. 	National Sports Office
2. Advocate for the declaration of an annual National Youth Week/Day and National Youth Award schemes to recognize young people's contributions to nation-building.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Youth Week or Day declared. • Young people recognized for their contributions to nation-building through special youth achievement awards. • Young people demonstrate national pride through participation in National Youth Week activities. 	National Youth Office, State Youth Offices and Youth Councils, schools, NGOs, FBOs, business sector, diplomatic missions
3. Encourage COM-FSM to organize national campus sports competitions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National and inter-state sports competitions. 	COM-FSM
4. Conduct community enrichment programs at state level.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of community enrichment programs established and carried out by young people. • Young people demonstrate commitment to improving their respective programs. 	Youth groups
5. Develop partnerships between parents, teachers and students so parents can share skills with students.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of skills development programs conducted with parents, PTAs. 	Public and private schools, PTAs



6.9 INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING, CAPACITY BUILDING AND COORDINATION

Objective: To strengthen the capacity and effectiveness of youth organizations in the planning and delivery of youth programs, promoting youth networks, and implementing, monitoring and evaluation of the National Youth Policy.

Overview

The mission of the FSM National Youth Office (NYO) is to coordinate the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the National Youth Policy.

This coordination will be in the form of support and assistance for the design and implementation of youth development activities within and between the states of the FSM and between the states and foreign entities. In addition, the NYO will develop and organize national activities that encourage and/or support youth development activities.

The NYO and State Youth Offices will promote regional and international cooperation and collaboration with youth organizations to improve the delivery of youth services in the FSM, as well as a sense of unity and goodwill among young FSM citizens through collaborative youth activities and training events.

The NYO and State Youth Offices will also assist HESA with health-related youth problems.





Strategies, Outcomes and Responsible Agencies

Strategies	Intended Outcomes	Responsible Agencies
1. Redefine the objectives and functions of the NYO so it reflects the new direction outlined in the NYP.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NYO objectives and functions redefined within three months of adoption of NYP. 	NYO
2. Redefine the objectives and functions of the State Youth Offices so they reflect the new direction outlined in the NYP.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Youth Office objectives and functions redefined within three months of adoption of NYP. 	State Youth Offices
3. Establish partnerships with key stakeholders to determine appropriate action towards the implementation of the NYP in 2004.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Linkages established and strengthened with partner organizations immediately after adoption of policy. 	NYO, State Youth Offices
4. Strengthen communication networks between NYP stakeholders, funding agencies and regional organizations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing communication and collaboration amongst key stakeholders strengthened. 	NYO, State Youth Offices
5. Develop annual work plans for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of NYP.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work plans developed and put into action immediately after adoption of policy. 	NYO, State Youth Offices
6. Secure additional resources to support NYP initiatives at national and state levels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project proposals regularly developed and presented to potential donors. Increase in funds secured for youth development. 	NYO, State Youth Offices
7. Conduct annual strategic planning training for NYO staff, State Youth Office staff and FSMYC members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least one training activity conducted per year. 	NYO, State Youth Offices
8. Conduct train-the-trainers courses for office bearers of youth organizations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least one training program conducted per year. Pool of youth trainers established to conduct future training. 	NYO, State Youth Offices
9. Conduct ongoing leadership and management training for youth leaders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth leaders more effective in managing their organizations. 	NYO, State Youth Offices, youth organizations



7 IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISM

7.1 POLICY IMPLEMENTATION AND COORDINATION

a) Department of Health, Education and Social Affairs

As the central government department (ministry) responsible for youth development in the country, HESA is the lead agency in overseeing the implementation of the policy. The task requires close coordination among the states, the National Youth Office and all groups concerned with youth issues. Therefore, the Department will work closely with the FSM Youth Council and State Youth Councils to ensure the effective implementation of the initiatives outlined in the policy. Key partner organizations that can play a role in the implementation are listed below. The Department will work closely with them in getting the various strategy areas of the policy implemented.

Where the Department is charged with direct responsibility for carrying out specific activities related to this policy, it will seek financial and other resources through approved government channels.

b) The FSM Youth Council

The FSMYC is recognized as the key partner for HESA in the implementation of the policy. It is important that the FSMYC works as a mutual partner in policy decisions, consultative mechanisms, performance monitoring and evaluation reviews and any other forum organized in relation to the implementation. It is also important for the FSMYC to maintain its membership of the Pacific Youth Council so it is represented at regional and international youth gatherings.

To improve the chances of success in implementing the policy, HESA will initiate the establishment and strengthening of the FSMYC. The FSMYC needs to work closely with HESA in coordinating the activities to be conducted by each state, while at the same time maintaining its independence as a non-government organization that serves the interests of the young people of the FSM.

Membership of FSMYC

Youth Official Focal Points

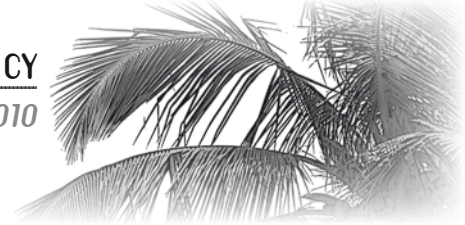
1. National Youth Coordinator
2. Chuuk State Youth Coordinator
3. Kosrae State Youth Coordinator
4. Pohnpei State Youth Coordinator
5. Yap State Youth Coordinator

Partner Agencies (GOs and NGOs)

1. FSM Gender and Development Officer
2. FSM Department of Justice – Attorney-General
3. FSM Substance Abuse and Mental Health Unit
4. State Health and Education departments
5. The Nature Conservancy
6. Conservation Society of Pohnpei
7. COM-FSM (Student Services or Support Services)
8. COM Land Grant Program
9. Upward Bound
10. Talent Search Program
11. T-3 Program
12. US Peace Corps
13. Boy Scouts
14. Girl Scouts
15. Kosrae Youth Development Association – Executive Officers
16. Yap Youth Congress – Executive Officer
17. Pohnpei Youth Council representative
18. Chuuk Youth Council representative
19. COM-FSM Student Body Association (President/Executive Officer)
20. Micronesia Red Cross Society
21. Micronesia Bound, Inc.
22. Micronesian Seminar
23. Salvation Army
24. Pohnpei Lions Club
25. Rotary Club – Pohnpei
26. Rotary Club – Chuuk

Partner Agencies (FBOs)

1. Catholic Church Youth
2. Congregational Churches Youth
3. United Church of Christ Youth
4. Assembly of God Youth



5. Evangelical Church Youth
6. Pentecostal Church Youth
7. Latter Day Saints Youth
8. Bahai Faith Youth
9. Every Home for Christ Youth
10. Seventh Day Adventist Youth
11. Pacific Missionary Fellowship Youth

Other organizations may be invited to become members of the FSMYC as deemed necessary.

c) State Governments and Government Agencies

The state governments and government agencies that are already conducting activities recognized in this policy are encouraged to continue their initiatives. Those agencies that have been identified as potential partners in the implementation of new initiatives proposed by this policy are encouraged to take up the challenge.

For the purposes of monitoring and evaluation of the progress of policy implementation, at the end of each fiscal year all national and state government agencies involved are requested to provide reports to HESA on the specific activities related to this policy so these can be included in the annual report on implementation.

d) Community Organizations

Community organizations that have been identified as potential partners (e.g. churches, sports groups, youth groups, village councils, private enterprises, etc.) in the implementation of the new initiatives proposed by this policy are encouraged to take up the challenge.

For the purposes of monitoring and evaluation of the progress of policy implementation, at the end of each fiscal year all community organizations involved are requested to provide reports to HESA on the specific activities related to the policy, for inclusion in a consolidated report on implementation.

e) Young People

As young men and women between the ages of 15 and 34 are the main target group for this policy, they are encouraged to actively participate as beneficiaries³⁶ of the proposed initiatives.

They are also encouraged to take part in the planning, monitoring and evaluation exercises to be carried out as part of the implementation process. This will ensure that they derive maximum benefit from the policy and at the same time give them the opportunity to contribute to the ongoing refinement of policy strategies.

7.2 Performance Monitoring and Evaluation

It is essential to ensure that the implementation of this policy remains on track and goes according to plan. In this respect, it is important that periodical reviews become part of the implementation process, to enable flexibility to be applied to the selection of activities to be implemented within the policy period, and provide opportunities for adjustments to ensure the policy is updated in response to any changes in the FSM social and economic environment.

The following process is recommended for monitoring the effectiveness of the policy.

a) Annual Evaluation

In August each year, HESA (Youth Office), in collaboration with the FSM Youth Council and partner agencies, will organize a National Youth Leadership Conference to evaluate the progress of implementation for the current year. State and national agencies will produce a progress report for submission to the conference. Following the adoption of these reports, HESA will produce a consolidated report for distribution to key stakeholders, funding agencies and regional and international youth conferences.

b) Policy Review

A thorough review of the policy needs to be conducted every 24 months³⁷ to ensure that it remains relevant to the prevailing conditions. A full report is to be produced as a result of the review for the purpose of informing the government, stakeholders, young people themselves, and funding agencies.

³⁶ Those who receive benefits from the activities carried out.

³⁷ It is proposed that reviews be conducted in 2006, 2008 and 2010.



c) Promotion of the Policy

It is recommended that the policy be promoted regularly at village gatherings, at state and national events, through the media and at regional and international youth gatherings.

d) Key Indicators of the Effectiveness of the Policy

This policy has been formulated to achieve positive outcomes for the young people of the FSM. The following are some examples of key indicators of its effectiveness; they can be used during annual evaluations and policy reviews as a means of measuring progress.

- » Increased awareness in society of youth development issues
- » Marked increase in the number of skilled young people
- » Larger proportion of young people practicing healthy lifestyles
- » Greater number of young people actively engaged in income-generation enterprises
- » Young people demonstrating greater respect for and appreciation of their cultural heritage
- » More young people demonstrating positive attitudes and moral values
- » Greater involvement of young people in environmental protection programs

- » Greater degree of youth participation in positive activities
- » Greater number of young leaders holding leadership positions in the community
- » Evidence of a spirit of unity among young people and their organizations
- » Improved coordination and cooperation between stakeholders
- » Increased allocation of resources by government to youth development
- » Greater recognition and support for youth initiatives by donors

When assessing the successes of the policy, there will be a temptation to measure the number of activities conducted or the number of young people participating in these activities as an indication of success. While this type of evaluation is generally acceptable, it is more important to measure the impacts the activities are having on the lives of young people, such as changes or improvements in behavior. Decreases in the incidence of negative actions are more difficult to measure, but they are also more effective indicators of success. Therefore, organizations implementing policy initiatives are encouraged to devise ways of effectively measuring the impact of their activities on the lives of young people – bearing in mind that the overall objective of the policy is to develop young people's full potential so they can have a better quality of life.



8 RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS

It is clear that the practical initiatives presented in this policy require financial and human resources far in excess of the limited resources currently available for youth development in the FSM.

To secure additional resources for the implementation of the policy, HESA will continue to advocate for more adequate financial allocations to its National Youth/Sports Unit from the national budget. The National Youth Office will assist, where necessary, in securing resources to support the implementation of policy initiatives.

State Youth Offices and stakeholders that are directly responsible for the implementation of policy initiatives are also challenged to actively seek out potential support from in-country and external funding sources.

It is important to plan programs strategically. Youth leaders need to be resourceful and demonstrate a willingness to shift away from the mentality of depending on handouts and towards a mindset of creative intervention in order to succeed against the current backdrop of challenging socio-economic conditions.





9 Conclusion

The FSM National Youth Policy is a vision formulated to give the young men and women of the FSM faith in the future. It offers them opportunities to shape their own future, assume responsibility and play an active role in the life of their communities.

To ensure its effectiveness as a tool for promoting positive youth development, the policy has been aligned with national priorities. Its monitoring mechanism allows for periodic updating in order for it to remain relevant throughout its implementation. This monitoring will also provide opportunities for effectively responding to emerging trends relating to young people.

Success in achieving the aspirations of the policy can only be guaranteed if all the individuals who are concerned with the welfare and positive development of young people in the FSM truly collaborate to create and maintain a dynamic and exciting environment in which young people are empowered to make positive contributions to society while at the same time improving their quality of life.





Acknowledgements

A wide range of individuals, organizations, groups of young people and adults have been involved in the development of the FSM National Youth Policy 2004–2010. Accordingly, the Government of the FSM through HESA gratefully acknowledges all those who have freely contributed their time, experience and ongoing support.

The hard work of the individuals who pooled their efforts to produce the first draft during the 11th National Youth Leadership Conference is particularly acknowledged. The same goes for all the many other individuals and organizations listed in Section 3.3 of this document, for their formal and informal contributions to the ongoing consultations on the policy.

For their additional input into the development of the policy, sincere gratitude is extended to Dr. Rufino Mauricio, Mr. Kuliano K. Raymond, Mr. Wehns Billen, Ms. Fancelyn Perman, Mr. Jeffrey Santos and Ms. Natasha Santos.

The members of the NYP Reference Group appointed in March 2004 as a checking mechanism for the policy development process are acknowledged for their commitment to this national initiative. They are Mr. Osaia Santos, Mr. Patterson K. Shed, Ms. Julia Freed, Ms. Jane Elymore, Ms. Eileen Y. Mackenzie, Mr. Person Joseph, Mr. Kerio Walliby, Mr. Jesse Giltamag, Mr. Walburg Hadley, Major Scott Nicloy and Mr. Rainer Jimmy.

The FSM Government is extremely grateful to the Australian Embassy in Pohnpei and the PYB of the SPC for financial and technical assistance towards the development of the policy.

Special acknowledgement is extended to Mr. Tangata Vainerere, SPC's Youth Development Adviser, for his commitment, direction and leadership, which resulted in the policy's completion. Appreciation is extended to Ms. Leilamona Primo for her involvement in developing and designing the final policy document.





References

- Dinnen, Sinclair (ed.). 2003. *A kind of mending: Restorative justice in the Pacific Islands*. Pandanus Books, Canberra.
- Federated States of Micronesia Economic Summit. 1999. *Proceedings of the 2nd FSM Economic Summit*. Government of the FSM, Pohnpei.
- Government of Niue. 2003. *Niue National Youth Policy 2003–2008*. Department of Community Affairs.
- Government of Papua New Guinea. 1996. *National Youth Policy of Papua New Guinea*. National Youth Service.
- Government of the Federated States of Micronesia. 1978. *Constitution of the Federated States of Micronesia*. FSM Public Information Office.
- Government of the Federated States of Micronesia. 1991. FSM Public Law 7-31 of 1991 designated the song entitled *Patriots of Micronesia* as the FSM National Anthem. FSM Archives & Public Information Office.
- Government of the Federated States of Micronesia. 2000. *The FSM Planning Framework 1999–2002*. Department of Economic Affairs, Pohnpei.
- Government of the Federated States of Micronesia. 2002. *The FSM 2000 census of population and housing: National census report*. Department of Economic Affairs, Pohnpei.
- Government of the Federated States of Micronesia. 2006. *The FSM Justice Sector children's handbook: Juvenile Justice Guidelines*. Department of Justice.
- Government of the Federated States of Micronesia and UNICEF. 1996. *A situation analysis of children and women in the Federated States of Micronesia 1996*. UNICEF Pacific, Suva.
- Hezel, Francis X. 1991. *The Catholic Church in Micronesia: Historical essays on the Catholic Church in the Caroline–Marshall Islands*. Micronesian Seminar, Loyola University Press, Chicago.
- Permanent Mission of the Federated States of Micronesia to the United Nations. 1994. *Benefits of international organizations for the Federated States of Micronesia*. Government of the FSM.
- Pohnpei State Government. 2003. *Report on the Youth Leadership Conference on Youth Empowerment and Cultural Literacy*. Social Affairs (Youth Interest) Office.
- Secretariat of the Pacific Community. 1998. *Communiqué on Pacific youth*. Pacific Youth Bureau, SPC, Noumea.
- Secretariat of the Pacific Community. 2003. *Pacific Youth Bureau strategic plan 2003–2006*. Pacific Youth Bureau, SPC, Noumea.
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF Pacific). 1998. *State of Pacific youth 1998*. UNICEF, Suva.
- Vainerere, Tangata. 1998. *Mission report: Kosrae State, FSM, 18–28 February 2002*. Pacific Youth Bureau, SPC, Noumea.
- Vainerere, Tangata. 1998. *Pacific Youth Strategy 2005: Future directions for Pacific youth towards 2005 and beyond*. Pacific Youth Bureau, SPC, Noumea.