

Opening Remarks  
by  
T.H. Lorin Robert, Secretary of the FSM Department of Foreign Affairs

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US-FSM JEMCO Meeting  
Honolulu, Hawaii  
September 1, 2009

Good Morning everyone. It is a great honor to be here in beautiful Honolulu today to represent the Federated States of Micronesia at this Joint Economic Management Committee meeting, together with my colleague, Ms. Evelyn Adolph. This is my first JEMCO, so I would hope that you will be patient with me throughout our meeting.

I would like to begin by extending the greetings of President Emanuel Mori, and the rest of the National and State leaderships and the people of the FSM. On their behalf and on behalf of our delegation here this morning, I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and welcome JEMCO Chairman Nikolao Pula, JEMCO members, Alcy Frelick and *Dr. Nadine Gracia* and the rest of the U.S. delegation from the Department of State, Department of Interior and Department of Education.

We could also not start a JEMCO meeting without giving special recognition to our long-time Department of Interior and Department of State partners Tom Bussanich and Mary Comfort. I must also offer my special thanks to the OIA Hawaii Field Office team members, Stephen Savage, Tim Donahue, Roylinne Wada and Gerald Shea, who have made this year's budget work both enjoyable and effective. We believe that our work with you this year has established a strong precedent for improved budget deliberations in the future.

With me and my colleague today are representatives of both the National and State Governments, whose interests form the basis of our aspiration as a nation for a sustainable future. It is my hope that our meeting will result in positive outcomes and improved understanding of our respective issues, concerns and national, as well as state, perspectives.

Friends, as a new member of JEMCO, I come with optimism and the anticipation that the second five years of our relations under the Amended Compact can move forward from an articulation of the issues and mechanisms, to the development of