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Micronesian Islands Forum Concludes Successfully, Inspiring Regional Cooperation and Progress

The 26th Micronesian Islands Forum (MIF) concluded Tuesday, June 4, 2024 with commitments from member leaders to greater cooperation and investment on issues they face collectively as a subregion. The final day of roundtable discussions highlighted the subregion's commitments to taking action on renewable energy, digitalization, cybersecurity, and sustainability.

Leaders shared their experiences and challenges in transitioning to sustainable energy sources, protecting local telecom assets, and combating cyber threats. The Forum also provided a platform for addressing governance issues, security concerns, and fostering subregional and regional cooperation. Discussions included collaborative projects such as developing shared cybersecurity plans and preserving institutional memory through the digitization of government records with respect to climate change impacts such as sea level rise.

The dedication to cultural preservation, environmental stewardship, and sustainable development was a key theme throughout the discussions. From protecting marine environments to addressing waste management challenges, the forum showcased a shared commitment to tackling pressing issues despite resource constraints as small island states in remote locations.

A significant highlight that took place was the reaffirmation of support for the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) in their pursuit of associate membership in the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF). This support was emphasized by a letter from the U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, demonstrating a strong commitment to regional unity and progress. Her Excellency J. Uduch Sengebau Senior, Vice President of the Republic of Palau, echoed this sentiment during her closing remarks, advocating for the inclusion of Guam, CNMI, and American Samoa in regional organizations irrespective of political status.

Lt. Governor La’apui Talauega E.V. Ale underscored the significance of these discussions, noting their role in fostering a collaborative spirit and driving regional progress as American Samoa continues to drive its associate membership application to the Pacific Islands Forum. He pointed out that these forums not only shed light on the region's collective challenges and solutions but also offer valuable insights that American Samoa can apply to enhance its own sustainable development initiatives. Through active participation, American Samoa stands to benefit from shared knowledge and collaborative projects, ultimately fostering a future of mutual prosperity and strengthened ties across the Blue Pacific Continent.

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26TH MICRONESIAN ISLANDS FORUM



MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2024 &
TUESDAY, JUNE 4, 2024
HYATT REGENCY GUAM, TAMU