

# WB/GEF-funded coral reef restoration working group here



Andrew Heyward of Australian Institute of Marine Science (left) and Dr. Makoto Omori of Akajima Marine Science Laboratory in Japan show some of the cages containing thousands of baby corals that would be kept in the sea for a year in hopes to restore coral reefs. The scientists are doing research at the PICRC laboratory.

photo by Agnes M. Abrau

By AGNES M. ABRAU  
Horizon News Staff

EXPERTS and scientists assigned to undergo a long-term Coral Reef Restoration and Remediation are currently here in Palau.

This working group is part of the six scientific working groups of international scientists to identify and investigate coral reef management and policy, to study worldwide degradation of coral reefs and ultimately, offer cost-effective approaches to restoration of coral reefs in the world. The other team that is here is focusing on remote sensing.

The 12-million World Bank project funded through its Global Environmental Facility gathers the best minds in marine biology, a part of the global coordinated response to address the problem of coral reef degradation.

Three scientists from the Restoration and Remediation Group showed to Palau Horizon how they have started their initiatives using different approaches to hopefully expand knowledge on restoring coral reefs using the laboratory of Palau International Coral Reef Center as their base and research study.

The three scientists—Dr. Andrew Heyward of Australian Institute of Marine Science, Dr. Makoto Omori of Akajima Marine Science Laboratory in Japan and Dr. Aileen N. C. Morse of the University of California Santa Barbara—said that they are here to test different approaches to restore the reefs and be able to make recommendations on how to restore and repair the damaged reefs in a cost-effective manner.

Dr. Heyward, for example, is using an approach by collecting coral spawn that can be used for mass production. He then would release the larvae to the sea to test whether the supply of larvae is a factor of controlling the recovery or resilience of the reef,

among others.

"We want to answer all these questions of restoration with a range of new detailed knowledge of all the experts here," Heyward said.

Dr. Omori, for his part, has done a remarkable experiment in Okinawa such as the coral transplantation and mass culture of corals.

Yesterday, Dr. Omori has released 60,000 baby corals attached to the substrate (using ceramic tiles). These are enclosed in 10 cages and are suspended in the sea.

"We'll keep them in the sea for one year, then we'll transplant them to the sea," Dr. Omori said.

Dr. Morse is also using enhancement of larval recruitment approach but in a different way. She is using natural "chemical inducers" to attract coral larvae produced by selected spawning colonies into larval flypapers. She and her team did this by collecting entrusting red algae. Some of them they will plant on the reef and some they will put on low-cost based hatcheries using a highly filtered lagoon water.

"We will compare the growth and survival of the larvae in the open reef to the ones that we put here in the hatcheries," Dr. Morse said.

While the three scientists are doing complicated, scientific approaches to restoring the reefs, they are considering the key element of the study—cost effectiveness. "We're making some small steps. It's the first global effort for coral reef restoration. At the end of this we should have a better picture of the reefs," Heyward said.

Apart from the restoration and remediation and remote sensing groups, the four other working groups involved in the WB/GEF study are coral bleaching and local ecological effects, coral reef connectivity and large-scale ecological processes, coral diseases and modeling and decision support.



## PALAU PUBLIC UTILITIES CORPORATION

### VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPENING DATE: 03/01/06

CLOSING DATE: May 12, 2006

**Position:** Chief Executive Officer/General Manager  
**Salary Range:** Negotiable depending on qualification & experience.  
**Qualifications:**

- B.S. in engineering and/or MBA in Business Administration
- Must have a minimum of five years experience in management and demonstrate ability in the operational, financial, personnel and other aspects of managing an electrical utility company or similar installation.

#### Requirements:

- Resume:** At minimum, will consist of Bio-Data, educational history and type of degree, years of professional experience, employment records, special qualifications, related Work Assignment, Professional Certifications and Associations include copies of Diploma or Degree and Professional Certification
- Letter of Consent (Provided by PPUC):** Applicant will be required to submit a letter of consent to authorize PPUC to perform thorough background checks of applicant, including copies of relevant documents such as SS Cards and Passports.
- Name, Telephone, Fax Number and Email Address of Institutions (Schools, Employers and Law Enforcement Agencies)** who have records of applicant.
- Personal Reference (Names, Telephone, Fax Number and Email Address of Individual who have worked/know the applicant for the last five years and will submit affidavits as verification of the experience, qualification, and character of the applicant.)**
- Documents:** Copies of Degree/Diploma and Current Professional Certification.

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PPUC reserves the right to extend the closing date. PPUC also reserves the right to cancel or modify this notice in any manner.



President Remengesau holds the Earth Day shirt given to him by the organizers after planting a tree at Icebox Park in Malakal, Apr. 22.

photo by Agnes M. Abrau