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Chuan Ng returns to Palau for Court mediation program follow-up visit



Mr. Chuan Ng, Deputy District Registrar of the Federal Court of Australia based in Sydney, returns to Palau on behalf of the Pacific Judicial Development Program (PJDP) from April 6 – April 14, 2015, to conduct a Court Mediation Program Follow-Up Visit with the Palau Supreme Court. This is Mr. Ng's third visit to

the island. He previously traveled to Palau in January 2013 to conduct a Beginner's Mediation Workshop which was attended by over 50 participants. During that visit he co-mediated a dispute with local attorney, Mr. Siegfried B. Nakamura. Mr. Ng

also visited Palau in January 2014 to conduct an Advanced Mediation Workshop for local attorneys and interested members of the Palauan judiciary. The 3-day Advanced Workshop was attended by 13 participants who learned a number of advanced mediation techniques including dealing with difficult litigants, managing expectations, bridging cultural communication barriers, as well as participating in intensive role-playing exercises. While in Palau, Mr. Ng also co-mediated two court matters with local attorneys.

During this visit, Mr. Ng will continue working with the Palau Supreme Court to enhance its mediation program and meet with members of the Palau Judiciary and Bar Association to review and evaluate the mediation program's progress. While here, Mr. Ng will conduct a Mediation Refresher Workshop for judges and court staff, lead a roundtable discussion to review the Palau Supreme Court's mediation program, meet with judges to discuss the progress of and case management of court conduct-

ed mediations, and meet with the Palau Bar Association to discuss local attorneys' perceptions regarding the mediation program. Mr. Ng will also participate in two co-mediations while in Palau.

Chief Justice, Arthur Ngraklsong established a court-annexed mediation program in 2013 where court staff and some local attorneys (acting pro bono) have conducted mediations on behalf of the Court. To date, 20 court matters have been referred for mediation by the Palau Judiciary. 12 of those court matters have been successfully settled (60% success rate), which has benefited the parties and the Judiciary by reducing legal costs and freeing up Supreme Court resources. The Palau Judiciary strongly encourages people who have legal disputes to use the Supreme Court's Mediation Program to resolve their differences.

The Judiciary would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Ng for his time and his continued assistance with and support of the Supreme Court's mediation program.