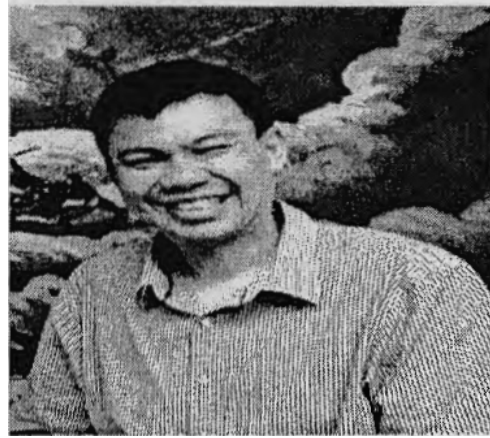


Advanced Mediation

Workshop conducted

(The following is issued by the Palau Judiciary for the benefit of the media and the public.)

In January 2013, Mr. Chuan Ng travelled to Palau where he conducted the Beginner's Mediation Workshop held in the Supreme Court which was attended by over 50 attendees. During that visit, he co-mediated a dispute with a local attorney, Mr. Siegfried B. Nakamura.



Chuan Ng

Through a Responsive Fund from Pacific Judicial Development Program (PJDP), Mr. Ng was able to travel back to Palau last month to conduct an advanced workshop on January 14 – 16, 2014. The workshop was attended by local attorneys and members of the Palau Judiciary. Additionally, Mr. Ng co-mediated two court matters with local attorneys.

Mr. Ng is a Deputy District Registrar of the Federal Court of Australia and is based in Sydney. His position is similar to that of a Magistrate-Judge in the United States Federal Courts. As well as hearing bankruptcy and corporation cases in Court, he frequently conducts mediations which are referred to him by the Judges of the Federal Court of Australia, Federal Circuit Court of Australia, and Norfolk Island Supreme Court.

The 3 day Advanced Workshop was attended by 13 participants and was held at both the Koror courthouse and the Koror State Assembly Hall. Participants

learned a number of advance mediation techniques including: dealing with difficult litigants, managing expectations, and bridging cultural communication barriers. Participants also engaged in intensive role-playing exercises

In accordance with ROP Rule Civ. P. 72, in early 2013, the Supreme Court established a court-annexed mediation program where court staff and some local attorneys (acting pro bono) have conducted mediations on behalf of the Court. To date, 20 court matters were referred for mediation by the Palau Judiciary. 12 of those court matters have been successfully settled (60% success rate), which has benefited the parties by reducing their legal costs and freed up the Supreme Court's resources.

The Palau Judiciary strongly encourages people who have legal disputes to use the Supreme Court's Mediation Program to resolve their differences.