

Palau to Host Micronesia Games

Contributed by Jim Tobin - FSM National Olympic Committee
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The Republic of Palau will host the 7th Micronesia Games, with the opening ceremony to be held at 4:00pm on Sunday, August 1, 2010 at the Palau National Track and Field and the closing ceremony on Tuesday, August 10. Over 1,500 athletes from the Micronesia region will compete in Athletics (track and field), Baseball, Basketball, Micronesia All-Around, Outrigger Canoe, Softball (fast-pitch), Spear Fishing, Swimming, Table Tennis, Tennis, Triathlon, Volleyball, Weightlifting and Wrestling. The Federated States of Micronesia does not participate as a country in the games. The 4 FSM States of Kosrae, Pohnpei, Chuuk and Yap compete separately along with the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Kiribati, CNMI, Guam and Palau.

Pohnpei will be sending the largest delegation of 191 athletes, coaches and officials. Pohnpei will compete in Athletics, Baseball, Basketball, Micronesia All-Around, Outrigger Canoe, Softball, Spear Fishing, Swimming, Table Tennis, Tennis, Volleyball, and Wrestling. The Kosrae delegation is just under 100 and will participate in Athletics, Baseball, Basketball, Outrigger Canoe, Table Tennis, Tennis, Softball, Volleyball and Wrestling. Chuuk will be competing in Athletics, Basketball, Volleyball and Wrestling with a delegation numbering over 80. Yap will be sending 122 people and will compete in Athletics, Baseball, Basketball, Outrigger Canoe, Softball, Volleyball, Weightlifting and Wrestling.

Kosrae, Pohnpei, Chuuk and Yap sport leaders were responsible for the selection of athletes, coaches and officials; delegation and team management; drafting budgets and fundraising. In February, FSM National Olympic Committee (FSMNOC) hosted a FSM national sport administration workshop on Pohnpei, with the sport leaders from all 4 FSM States attending. The workshop focused on athlete and coach selection criteria, team management, drafting budgets and fundraising. In the past, major funding for each of the FSM States costs has come from each state's legislature. Additionally, the FSM National Government generously provided \$200,000 to support the FSM States with airfare costs. The FSMNOC assisted with athlete and team training by bringing outside expert coaches to the FSM; proper training equipment; ordering of athlete and team uniforms; and on-line games registration and accreditation.

The official website for the Palau 2010 Micronesia Games is oceanasport.com/Palau. The site contains the schedules for all sports. The results are to be updated each day during the games. The Kosrae, Pohnpei, Chuuk and Yap delegations will arrive to Palau on July 30 and 31 and return immediately after the games close on August 10.

The Micronesia Games are held every 4 years. Saipan hosted the last games in 2006. The Micronesia Games Council will be holding a meeting in Palau on Sunday, August 8. The main agenda items at that meeting will be the selection of the next host of the 2014 Micronesia Games and the election of officers. Rumor has it that Pohnpei plans to submit a bid to host the next games. It is also hoped that a mini FSM Games, with no more the 6 to 8 sports, will be held on Pohnpei in July 2011.

Good luck to all of our athletes, teams and coaches!