Special Message from PIALA President on Website Launch of Pacific Virtual Museum Project -
https://digitalpasifik.org/

Hafa adai, PIALA family!

We hope you and your family are safe and well.

Imagine listening to audio from Yap about child care, adoption, House Stone platforms, Stone paths, funerals, burial places, land inheritance, and family estate relation. Or listening to a chant from Master Navigators about Satawal. Or watching photos of Samoan village life before the turn of the century; searching for “urohs en Pohnpei” (Pohnpei skirts). Or watching video footage of Micronesia/FSM Founding Day. Or comparing various fish hooks from New Zealand, Micronesia, Melanesia; research various tattoo implements from across the Pacific. Museums, Libraries, and Archives across the Pacific are uniting to provide access to a wealth of searchable databases, collections, and exhibits—one such platform that bridges the digital divide is the Pacific Virtual Museum Project.

On behalf of the Pacific Islands Association of Libraries, Archives, and Museums, we are excited to share and support the launch of this innovative online learning platform https://digitalpasifik.org/ Through this website, you are invited to explore, discover and view thousands of items held in museums, libraries, galleries, and collections around the world.

The Pacific Virtual Museum project’s website assists in enhancing, complementing, and augmenting the museum experience by offering a level of personalization, interactivity, and richness of content. This valuable digital tool brings about numerous and multi-layered benefits such as increased visitor access; bridges the digital divide by location and time; and increased educational opportunity. Let us continue to embrace innovation, learning and online collaboration. Let us celebrate the rich and diverse cultures of the Pacific. Let us share tools and networks among our fellow libraries, archives, museums, and related institutions of the Pacific Islands, by promoting digital technology. Let us empower our people in and of the Pacific Islands, enabling them to see, discover and explore items of digitized cultural heritage that are held in collections around the world.

As one PIALA family, we will emerge stronger when we share and contribute our cultural and historical information with the world. When we take ownership and authority of our own access to information and historical content, we help to conserve, preserve, and sustain our cultural heritage. Thank you Pacific Virtual Museum project, we humbly appreciate and support the hardwork and contribution to cultural history you do for all our Pacific brothers and sisters! Thank you, and Si Yu'us Maáse!

Respectfully,

Erlinda C. Naputi, President
PIALA

Erlinda C. Naputi, President (CNMI) • Roland San Nicolas, Vice President (GU) • Jefrey Libao, Treasurer (GU) • Brenda Mellan, Secretary (RMI)