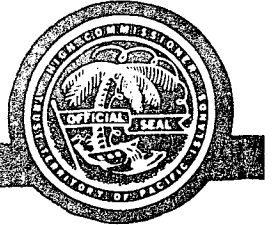


PRESS RELEASE



TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Office of the High Commissioner

Saipan, Mariana Islands

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STANFORD RESEARCH TEAM MEETS WITH TT EDUCATORS

Marianas

Saipan, Mariana Islands, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, June 19 . . . Staff members of the Stanford Research Institute in California are meeting this week with the Trust Territory educators to discuss critical issues in Micronesian education and to explore ways to resolve them.

Truk

Held in Saipan, the territory-wide conference is the first of two major conferences to be held for the Stanford Research group and Trust Territory Department of Education. It began Saturday, June 17, and will end this Friday. At the conclusion of the conference, the Stanford researchers will travel among the districts for about three weeks and seek answers to questions raised at the conference.

Ponape

Marshalls

The team has been visiting various districts in the Trust Territory since mid-May and will continue their travels through October. During this time intensive studies of educational needs in Micronesia are being carried out with a long-term goal of developing plans for guiding educational development in the Trust Territory.

Yap

Palau

"A finally refined and fully operational blueprint is obviously difficult and, perhaps, impossible to develop within a six-month period," said Mr. Trace. "However," he said, "it is intended that the work will result in a first approximation of an educational master plan that is in

MORE

STANFORD RESEARCH TEAM MEETS WITH
TT EDUCATORS - Page 2

harmony with the broad objectives of political and economic development and with manpower needs in Micronesia."

Enlisting the help of the Stanford Research Institute, a nonprofit corporation, the Trust Territory sent the Institute members into the districts to obtain opinions from Micronesians and Trust Territory government personnel regarding major issues and problems facing Micronesia--now and in the foreseeable future--to which education presents at least a partial solution.

During their familiarization visits, the Institute staff discussed such problems as goals of Micronesian education that are in keeping with political and economic development, school curricula and courses of study, training and quality of educational staff, alternatives in school organization, and means for obtaining community involvement in school programs.

They also reviewed school facility needs, financial requirements for education, education and training opportunities for Micronesians outside the Trust Territory, needs for vocational training and other occupationally relevant instruction, informal educational approaches (radio and newspapers, associations, etc.), and educational standards and evaluation.

After analyzing comments made about these areas by the Trust Territory personnel and through personal observation, the Stanford group prepared "issue statements" to provide the framework for the conference now being held.

"After identifying the critical issues, the conferees plan to explore technically feasible, psychologically acceptable, and economically

MORE

STANFORD RESEARCH TEAM MEETS WITH
TT EDUCATORS - Page 3

realistic means by which the issues might be resolved," said Mr. John Trace, Director of the Education Department and director of this special project. These methods will then be reviewed in the districts.

From July 28 through Aug. 4, a second session of the conference will be held to reconsider the deliberations of the first conference, incorporate new ideas developed during district visits, and attempt to reach some consensus on priority issues and promising approaches for resolving them.

Members of the Stanford Research Institute staff include Dr. Phil Sorensen, Leonard Henny, Richard Pearse, Keith Bezanson, Frank Mahony, and Howard Brooks. Assistant to the project director, Mr. Trace, is Carl Daeufer, coordinator for secondary school programs in the Trust Territory.

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