

## The First FSM Public Auditors Meeting held in Weno, Chuuk



Left to Right: Yap Acting Public Auditor Achilles Defngin, FSM National Public Auditor Haser Hainrick, Pohnpei Public Auditor Ihlen Joseph, Chuuk Public Auditor David Hausman, and Kosrae Public Auditor Stoney Taulang.

**On February 17-19, 2015**, the FSM Public Auditors had their first meeting in Chuuk. Attending the meeting were Public Auditors from the States of Pohnpei, Chuuk, Yap, Kosrae and the National Government along with their senior staff from their respective audit and investigation divisions. Hosting the meeting was the Public Auditor from the National Government Mr. Haser Hainrick.

The meeting started with a short opening ceremony and a welcoming speech by the Chuuk State Governor Mr. Johnson Elimo. Senate President Mailo and Chief Justice Noket were also present. Wonporun Steioshy Manual gave the opening and closing prayers. It was a momentous occasion not only because it was the very first meeting for the FSM Public Auditors, it was also significant for Chuuk State to finally have their own Audit Office and a Public Auditor since 1986.

The course of the meeting focused on the issues and challenges that each office faced and wanted to address moving forward. The issues were common among the audit offices and included areas such as training and capacity building; uniformity in strategic plans and audit methodologies; enhancement and professional certification programs in audit and investigation; alliance with and harnessing support from our allies and stakeholders in the sub-regional, regional and international levels; single audits; staff and human resource

matters; and adapting with the face pace in technology advancement to support operational efficiency in the audit offices.

A number of decisions were approved and various committees were form to ensure that the decisions made are implemented going forward. A Resolution was adopted to retain a legal counsel solely committed to handle legal matters for all FSM Offices of the Public Auditors. Considering that not all white collar cases referred to the department of justice are priority considerations and the effect of the statue of limitations on referred cases, therefore the need for a legal counsel was identified as a top priority.

The Public Auditors expressed their common desire to continue the meeting on an annual basis with the Kosrae OPA chosen as the next host for year 2016.

A fraud awareness presentation was conducted for the students at the Xavier High School in the afternoon of February 19, 2015, which was headed by the Chief of Investigation and the Investigation Advisor for the National OPA and Pohnpei OPA, respectively.

