

# PACIFIC news

## Yap

PRELSTAR's Remote Island Access Project provided technical assistance in Yap and received the following letter dated December 20, 2004:

Mr. T. Barlow, Merry Christmas to you and your staff. I am Jesse Haglelfeg, Chief Pharmacist and Chief of Ancillary Division at Yap Memorial Hospital and I want to personally express our gratitude and thankfulness for the communication system Bruce [Best] helped setting up for the Outer Islands of Yap. Even with its still early stage and limited capability, we have seen a great improvement in our reporting and the potential to improve in the health care delivery to the people of remote islands of Yap. Again thank you for your support for the Educational and Health System of Yap, FSM. Jesse Haglelfeg

## American Samoa, CNMI, and Guam

The Pacific Arts Councils Network launched its new website at [www.prel.org/programs/pcahe/PTG/index.html](http://www.prel.org/programs/pcahe/PTG/index.html) in partnership with Pacific Resources for Education and Learning's (PREL's) Pacific Center for the Arts and Humanities in Education program. The three Councils, located in American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Guam, share the goals of increasing organizational capacity and communication through technology, creating and planning activities that foster collaboration, and providing educational experiences. The site contains links to the Pacific Arts Lending Boxes, an arts newsletter, and schedules for workshops and educational programming.

## Region

PREL developed three courses for community health nurses for the Pacific Open Learning Health Net created by the World Health Organization (WHO). The courses, Preventing Diabetes and Hypertension, Mosquito Borne Diseases, and HIV/AIDs and Tuberculosis, were delivered online with

a resource CD-ROM to participants in 10 Pacific island countries—the Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu.

The courses were designed to provide health workers in the Pacific with current information on prevention and treatment of these diseases, as well as with communication strategies to educate students, teachers, and the community about lifestyle changes for prevention. Over 60 health workers participated in the courses, many with no experience using modern technology. Over 90% of the students completed the courses, and many have asked for additional online courses. Local health educators in the Cook Islands and Vanuatu are using the materials to provide local training of additional health care personnel and are using the model to develop their own local courses.



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