



## Palau Local Governance Strengthening Project (LGSP)



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

### HATOHOBEL STATE



### GOVERNANCE CLINICS FOR CITIZENS REPORT



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**March 11 – April 9, 2018**  
REPORT DATE: 28 August, 2018

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# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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The Governance Clinic for citizens was made possible through many consultations and engagement with people from various parts of the community. These include consultations with and advice received from both formal partners and informal partners. This critical advice made the Hatohobei State Governance Clinic for Citizens a successful activity in 2018. In particular, the following entities or individuals were notably very supportive and provided their guidance and physical efforts to the clinic exercises:

- Hatohobei State Government;
- Hatohobei Community Facilitators;
- Ministry of State, Bureau of Domestic Affairs;
- Palau Resources Institute;
- Technical Advisors; and
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).



*Hatohobei Governance Clinic for Citizens, Youth Session, March 14, 2018 @ Palau Community College*

# INTRODUCTION

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***Hatohobei Governance Clinic for Citizens, Women’s Session, March 16, 2018, Koror State Assembly Hall***

The Palau Local Governance Strengthening Project (LGSP), commenced implementation in September 2016 following the official signature of the Project Document between the Government of Palau and UNDP. The Project is funded through financial support from the Government of Palau and UNDP. The Project is directly managed by the UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji which provides technical project management, procurement and policy advisory services through its technical advisors.

The three-year project provides assistance to the Government of Palau in improving local governance and service delivery through responsive and accountable governance at the local State level. The project is being implemented in phases with one of the key aims to provide capacity development support to the respective pilot States; namely Aimeliik, Melekeok, Ngeremlengui, Hatohobei, and Kayangel; also taking into account their role in implementing and supporting the 2030 Agenda and the localization of the SDGs. Hence, one of the key aspects of the project is to strengthen the relationship between the State Governments and the citizens, and empowering the citizens further through the promotion of knowledge sharing and open debates and feedback on good governance and accountability. This support is delivered under Output 3 of the Project, which is designed to ensure that “Local residents from pilot states, including youth and women, have increased understanding of central and local governments’ roles and responsibilities and participate more actively in local decision making and oversight.”

To support the above citizens’ empowerment and knowledge sharing on good governance and between citizen-state relationships, the Project in 2018 is running governance and leadership clinics per pilot state. The first batch of these clinics have been completed in latter part of quarter 1 and earlier part of quarter 2, 2018.

This report outlines the work undertaken as part of the Governance Clinic for Citizens that was conducted with Hatohobei State including necessary information on the methodology applied, main objectives of the clinic, key findings from the citizens in terms of challenges faced in fulfilling their roles as effective citizens and key lessons learned for future clinics and citizen engagement exercises.

## MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE GOVERNANCE CLINIC FOR CITIZENS

1. Improve citizens' understanding of their civic rights and duties
2. Provide some basic civics education & highlight differences in the traditional vs. democratic systems
3. Encourage more citizen participation & determine culturally appropriate ways to do this
4. Explore barriers to civic engagement & work to develop solutions
5. Work towards improved understanding of citizens' priorities in order to inform decision-making

## GOVERNANCE CLINIC DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

The Hatohobei Governance Clinic for Citizens was conducted in Koror and not in the State itself due to majority of the population including the State's Government Offices being based in Koror. There were six separate consultative meetings that were conducted with the Governors of Hatohobei State and Melekeok State, various community facilitators, key informants, state government staff and technical advisors from both states to inform the process for successful implementation of the clinics. These consultative meetings provided critical information related to perceptions about current levels of awareness of citizens with respect to governance and related aspects, the political climate, cultural barriers to voicing out, etc. These meetings also served as a way to check in and validate the objectives of the governance clinics to ensure what we were planning was in fact needed and potentially useful for strengthening local governance in their respective communities.

A major recommendation coming from these consultative meetings was that the clinics would best be done with separate sessions for Women, Men and Youth to ensure higher participation rates thus stronger engagement overall. Considering this recommendation, the length of the clinics was designed to run five sessions per State – one introductory meeting with whole community to introduce the main clinic objectives and schedule, then three sessions with each of the three groups separately. A final session with the whole community would be the last session and would provide an opportunity for each group to report back on results and discuss a strategic way forward to work with their State governments to address concerns raised as a result of this governance clinic for citizens.


Based on the preparatory meetings conducted, the sessions were initially scheduled as per the following dates:

- March 11, 2018, 3pm – 6:30pm – First All Community Meeting
- March 12 – 20, 2018 – Three Group Sessions
- March 26, 2018 – Final All Community Meeting (later rescheduled to April 10, 2018)

## SUMMARY OF KEY PRESENTATIONS, QUESTIONS RAISED AND FINDINGS FROM EACH SESSION


Overall a total of 83 participants (66% females, 34% males) were recorded during the entire governance clinic for citizens exercise conducted for the Hatohobei State. As indicated above, the clinic exercises were conducted through the use of presentations on various aspects of governance and raising knowledge of citizens through participatory exercises to determine key governance challenges and identifying solutions for those challenges. The participants included representation

from members from both the legislative and executive branches, traditional leaders and general members of the community including many women and youth. A summary of the key presentations made, questions posed to facilitate discussions and key findings from each of the sessions is provided in the following sections of this report. Below is the agenda for the first session with the whole community.



**United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**  
**Palau Local Governance Strengthening Project**

**Hatohobei Governance Clinic for Citizens**  
**Sunday, March 11, 2018, 3pm – 6:30pm**  
**Koror State Assembly Hall**



### Agenda

3:30pm	<b>Opening Prayer</b> – Wayne Andrew, Facilitator/Translator
3:35pm	<b>Opening and Welcome</b> – The Honorable Huana Nestor, Governor
3:45pm	<b>Ground Rules &amp; Card Box</b> – Wayne Andrew/Sheila Pedro, Facilitators
4:00pm	<b>Overview of the LGSP &amp; Good Governance</b> – Tarita Holm, UNDP
4:30pm	<b>Palauan Civics: Our Two Governance Systems, Traditional &amp; Democratic</b> – Julita Tellei, Palau Resources Institute, Consultant
5:00pm	<b>Overview of Sustainable Development Goals &amp; Palau’s Implementation of the SDGs</b> – Charlene Mersai, National Environment Planner, Ministry of Finance
5:15pm	<b>BREAK</b>
5:30pm	<b>Visioning Break Out Groups</b> – Wayne Andrew, Facilitator/Translator
5:45pm	<b>Reports from Each Group</b> – Group Reporters
6:00pm	<b>Next Steps</b> (Reminders about this week MWF Sessions for Women, Youth, Men & March 25 <sup>th</sup> All Community Final Meeting)
6:15pm	<b>Closing Remarks</b> – The Honorable Sabino Sackarias, Speaker
6:30pm	<b>Meeting Adjourned</b>

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**12 Good Democratic Governance Principles:**

1. FAIR REPRESENTATION & PARTICIPATION	7. COMPETENCE & CAPACITY
2. RESPONSIVENESS	8. INNOVATION & OPENNESS TO CHANGE
3. EFFICIENCY & EFFECTIVENESS	9. SUSTAINABILITY & LONG - TERM ORIENTATION
4. TRANSPARENCY	10. SOUND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT
5. RULE OF LAW	11. HUMAN RIGHTS, CULTURAL DIVERSITY, AND SOCIAL
6. ETHICAL CONDUCT	12. ACCOUNTABILITY

Participation is most successful where citizens:

**C** an do – that is, have the resources and skills and knowledge to participate;  
**L** ike to – that is, have a sense of attachment that reinforces participation;  
**E** nabled to – that is, are provided with the opportunity for participation;  
**A** sked to – that is, are involved by official bodies or voluntary groups;  
**R** esponded to – that is, see evidence that their views have been considered.

**Remaining Sessions This Month:**

- Monday, March 12, 2018, 6pm - 9pm (Women) @ Koror State Assembly Hall
- Wednesday, March 14, 2018, 6pm - 9pm (Youth) @ TBD
- Friday, March 16, 2018, 6pm - 9pm (Men) @ Koror State Assembly Hall
- Sunday, March 25, 2018, 3pm - 6pm (All community) @ Koror State Assembly Hall

# Session 1: First Community Meeting, Sunday, March 11, 2018

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The first session of the clinic was conducted on Sunday, March 11th from 3pm to 6.30pm. A total of 28 participants (50% females, 50% males) attended this first session of the governance clinic for citizens. The participants included traditional leaders, state government staff, legislators, citizens and workshop facilitators.

## Official Opening and Welcome

This first session included a formal opening and welcome by the Honorable Huana Nestor, Governor of Hatohobei State who thanked everyone for making time to participate and provided a brief update on the overall objectives of the governance clinic and key aspects that were to be covered. She also encouraged strong participation in the upcoming sessions that were scheduled to be conducted throughout the week.

## Ground Rules and Card Box

During this session, two of the Community Facilitators presented the ground rules for the governance clinic as well as the card box activity and the concept of a “parking lot.” They explained that if there is an issue that arises and it is important to discuss but there is not adequate time in this meeting to give it the attention it deserves, it will be put in a ‘parking lot’ to be revisited by Hatohobei State Government with the community at a later time. The ground rules included leaving “baggage” and “hats” at the door – i.e., recognizing that people in the community may have internal disputes and that people wear many hats however to participate today primarily as a citizen and as all part of one team. A powerful yet simple code of conduct called “The Four Agreements” (**1-Be impeccable with your word; 2-Don’t take anything personally; 3-Don’t make assumptions; and, 4-Always do your best**) were also presented and adopted as a ground rule for the governance clinic sessions. Community Facilitators Mr. Wayne Andrew and Ms. Sheila Pedro facilitated this session and also explained the suggestion cards and box and asked that each participant fill out a card and drop it in the boxes provided. There were three questions posed for feedback on the cards:

1. *Any ideas on ways to get more citizen participation in public discourse & decision making for your State/community?*
2. *What are your main concerns/challenges with respect to Palau & your State/community?*
3. *Anything else you'd like to share.*

## Presentation on Palau Local Governance Strengthening Project & Good Governance – Tarita Holm, UNDP-LGSP Project Officer

Following the official opening by the Governor and the ground rules and suggestion box explanation, Ms Tarita Holm, LGSP Project Officer provided an overview of the UNDP-Palau Local Governance Strengthening Project (LGSP) and good democratic governance principles (See Attachment 1 – Good Democratic Governance Principles). The presentation gave a brief background on the project and went over the three main project outputs targeting the main stakeholder groups. These are:

- **Output 1:** Five States (Executive and Legislative branches) have **enhanced capacities to plan and manage** public resources to deliver basic services to their constituencies.
- **Output 2:** The Ministry of State (Bureau of Domestic Affairs) has **enhanced capacities to support State governments** and facilitates relations and operations between central administrations, the Senate, the House of Delegates and State governments.
- **Output 3:** Local residents from 5 States, including youth and women, have **increased understanding of central and local governments' roles and responsibilities and participate more actively in local decision making and oversight.**

Additionally the presentation covered key findings from the UNDP Scoping Mission that are relevant to the governance clinic including some community perceptions around local governance (see attached presentation). The main objectives of the clinic were to:

- Improve citizens' understanding of civic rights and duties as well as roles & responsibilities of government;
- Provide some basic civics education and highlight differences in the traditional vs. democratic systems;
- Encourage more citizen participation & determine culturally appropriate mechanisms for it
- Explore barriers to civic engagement & work to develop solutions; and,
- Work towards improved understanding of citizens' priorities in order to inform decision-making

The presentation also covered relevant information from the local governance assessment conducted by UNDP in 2016 that emphasizes the importance of understanding concepts such as 'downward accountability' and highlighted some of the challenges and barriers in Palau for both citizens and governments with respect to downward accountability. The presentation also touched on the concept of governance as a social contract and went over various roles and responsibilities of governments and citizens in a democratic system of governance. It was noted that Palau has two parallel governance systems running at the same time – democratic and traditional systems and briefly articulated how aspects of these two systems work and the key differences in their respective rules which makes the transition to a democratic system even more challenging in Palau. The presentation also covered good democratic governance principles, the concepts of good governance and 'effective citizenship.' The reality that what citizens need from their governments is simply good governance and not politics which tend to be more about individuals than issues. The presentation also made the point that governments need strong participation from their citizens in order for the



democratic system of governance to work well and for there to be 'effective citizenship.' The presentation touched on the most important qualities to look for when choosing a leader and the importance of good ethical leadership, emphasizing that leadership is not a position or a title but more about influence and choosing to live and work by example.

Finally, the presentation talked about the importance of civic engagement and a tool that is used in the European Union was shared (see below). A study was done to determine what factors enable citizen participation most successfully and this is what they found. The tool below demonstrates areas where States could assess and improve their own citizen engagement and consultation efforts. This tool uses the acronym "CLEAR" and refers to "*Can Do, Like To, Enabled To, Asked To, Responded To*" as factors or conditions for enabling the most successful citizen participation.

Participation is most successful where citizens:

- C an do** – that is, have the resources and skills and knowledge to participate;
- L ike to** – that is, have a sense of attachment that reinforces participation;
- E nabled to** – that is, are provided with the opportunity for participation;
- A sked to** – that is, are involved by official bodies or voluntary groups;
- R esponded to** – that is, see evidence that their views have been considered.

## Overview of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and Palau's Implementation of the SDGs – Charlene Mersai, National Environment Planner, MOF



*Left: The Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs); Right: Ms. Charlene Mersai, National Environment Planner, Ministry of Finance*

This session by Ms. Charlene Mersai, National Environment Planner, introduced and briefed participants on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and national government efforts to

determine proper indicators for each of the 17 goals to meet Palau's reporting requirements. There was a handout provided on the 17 SDGs with Palauan translations of each (see Attachment 2 – SDGs Palauan Translation & Hatohobei Translation). The main points of the presentation were that some national priorities will never change, such as education, health, economy and the environment however, more and more it is being recognized at the global level that the only way to really achieve these goals is if a global and united effort is undertaken. Ms. Mersai emphasized the importance of monitoring progress and implementing at the national and local State levels in addition to the global level. She stated that the implementation of the SDGs in Palau has been limited and that implementation reporting focused on indicators that are relevant, prioritized and reportable. Two national SDG consultations were held on February 24, 2016 and June 29, 2017 and the first national SDG Report came out in March 2018. Opportunities to improve implementation efforts include better communication and engagement with stakeholders at both the national and regional levels; national budgetary processes with a focus on enhancing transparency and accountability with localized indicators; and by offering ways to utilize existing cultural values and practices to achieve sustainable development aspirations through traditional concepts of reciprocity, etc.

## Palauan Civics: Two Governance Systems, Traditional & Democratic – Ms. Julita Tellei, Palau Resources Institute, Consultant



This session was instrumentally used to discuss and raise awareness on Palau's historical context with governance and also to present roles and powers of various branches within the State government such as the Office of the Governor, the State Legislature and of citizens. Below were the main points from her presentation:

### **Role and Powers of the Office of the Governor**

- √ Implement, execute, and enforce laws
- √ Introduces Bills to Legislature
- √ Prepare and Propose Budget
- √ Levy and collect tax pursuant to law
- √ Appoint head of major executive positions

- √ Represent [the] state in negotiations, treaties, and dealings
- √ Approve or disapprove bills transmitted by Legislature

### Role and Powers of the Legislatures

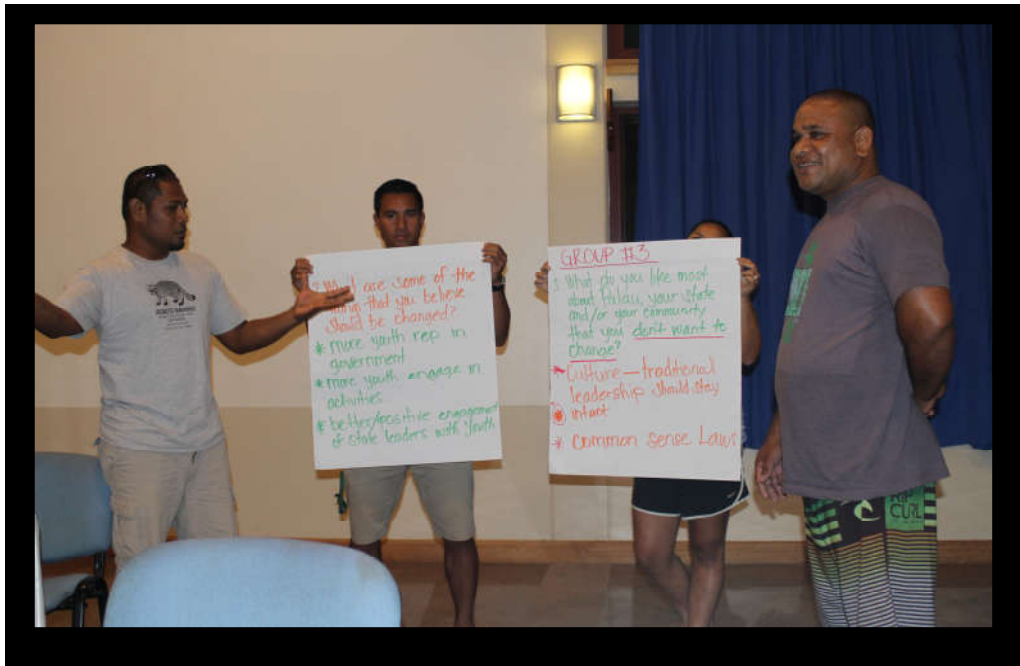
Immediately after the election and taking the oath of office, the legislature selects its officers, then adopts rules of procedures to carry out its roles and powers to:

- √ Make laws
- √ Impose and collect tax
- √ Regulate resources within state boundaries
- √ Approve Governor's appointments to executive positions
- √ Can impeach, recall, or remove Governor

### Role and Powers of the Local Citizens

Palau's Constitution provides citizens with fundamental rights as well as civic rights and duties. A recommendation was made that the roles and powers of the local citizens be spelled out in a manual for the citizens of the state and the nation. This manual could provide a list of roles and powers of local citizens in relation to the positions of Governor and members of the state legislature as well as with the national government.

## Visioning Break-Out Groups



The last part of the first session was a visioning exercise conducted with the participants where they were divided into several groups and community facilitators led discussions on two key questions about the future. The questions were framed within a timeframe of around 30 years and participants were asked to imagine their communities thirty years from now. The two questions were: (1) What about their community do they want to keep; and, (2) What about their community do they want to see change?

In summary, the following was noted from participant feedback:

For the first question: ***“What do you like about Palau, your State, and/or your community that you don’t want to see change?”***

1. Culture/tradition
  - i. Foundation of our identity/heritage
  - ii. Transparency (government)
  - iii. State government will remain, not to be abolished
  - iv. Unity
  - v. Traditional leadership should stay intact
  - vi. Common sense laws
2. Remain national congress system as is
3. Remain 16 states
4. Maintain financial and technical assistance
5. Maintain regular transportation
6. Continue state support to conservation effort at Tobi State
7. Maintain/revive/enforce traditional culture
8. Unity and community bond
9. Keep all state holidays and events

For the second question: ***“What are some of the things that you believe should be changed?”***

10. Amend Hatohebei State constitution
11. National law on distribution of state block grant, not to base on population but state needs
12. Documentation of culture
13. Poachers served community service in Tobi/Helen
14. Land monumentation
15. Education and awareness on child abuse
16. More youth rep in government
17. More youth engages in activities
18. Better/positive engagement of state leaders with youth
19. More involvement of national government with state
20. Transition between outgoing and incoming government leaders
  - i. Continuity of work
  - ii. Amendment of constitution so it’s up to date

# Session 2: Women Session – Monday, March 12, 2018

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The session for women was the first of the group sessions conducted under the clinic and was held the very next night on Monday, March 12, 2018 from 6pm to 9pm at the Koror State Assembly Hall. A total of 21 female participants attended this session. The session was opened with a prayer by Mr. Wayne Andrew and welcoming remarks by Ms. Sheila Pedro. Community Facilitator Ms. Lincy Marino went over the ground rules and card box before the LGSP Project Officer, Ms. Tarita Holm gave the brief overview presentation on the LGSP and Good Governance. After some discussion, participants were divided into groups and two break-out group sessions were conducted covering two main questions: (1) How can we achieve successful citizen engagement with the citizens of Hatohobei State in a way that is culturally appropriate; and (2) What are the main issues/challenges for Hatohobei people from the women's perspective? After the brainstorming sessions, the groups reported back to the plenary and voted on what issues/challenges they believe to be of highest priority. Below are the responses:

## **Women's Session: Ranking Prioritizing Issues**

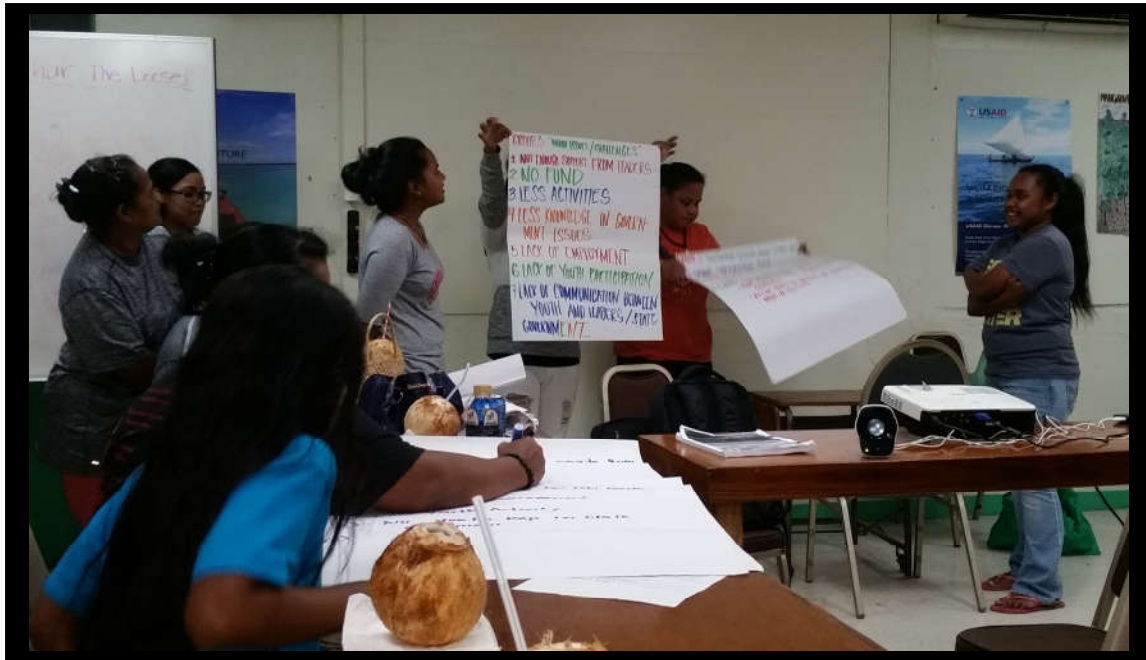
1. Food security – revive taro patch
2. Revive and sustain culture/ tradition
  - a. Language and culture/traditional skills, incorporated into school curriculum
3. Centralized power system
4. Improved water system (Water security)
5. Nurse/Doctor/Priest
6. Improved communications i.e. telephone/internet
7. Higher levels of formal education needed for citizens
8. Lack of transparency
9. Make poachers serve community service as punishment
10. Young generations lack respect
11. Lack of knowledge of family tree

### **Women's top three priority issues:**

1. Food security – revive taro patch
2. Revive/sustain culture and traditions
3. Nurse/Doctor/Priest

## Session 3: Youth Session – Wednesday, March 14, 2018

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### **Youth Session – Tuesday, March 14, 2018 at PCC, 6pm – 9pm**

The Youth Session was held at the Palau Community College from 6pm to 9pm on Tuesday, March 14, 2018. The session began by screening a documentary film titled *“Democracy in Palau - Doing it Right – Palauan Documentary”* that covers some of the history of Palau’s road to independence with the negotiations for the Compact of Free Association with the United States. After this film, a discussion about the film was conducted to convey the importance of citizen engagement in the context of Palau’s history. Community facilitator Mr. Wayne Andrew facilitated the meeting and Project Officer gave the full overview presentation of the LGSP since most of the youth were not present at the first session. This led to discussion on good democratic governance principles as well as what citizens need for successful participation and the tool using the acronym CLEAR. After this presentation, two break out group sessions were then held covering the same two questions posed during the women’s session – (1) - How can we get more Youth of Hatohobei State to participate in decision-making in a way that is culturally appropriate; and, (2) What are the main issues/challenges for Hatohobei people from the youth’s perspective. Although there was a prioritization exercise as part of the agenda, there was not enough time for the youth to vote on their top priorities and therefore it was agreed that all of the priorities for the youth would be presented at the final session of the governance clinic with the whole community.

The main priority issues raised by the Youth who attended this session are as follows (not in any order of priority):

1. Not enough support and encouragement from State leaders

2. Lack of:
  - Funding
  - Youth participation
  - Employment
  - Communication
  - Knowledge in government issues
  - Unity among youth
3. Drug use
4. No youth rep in State Government
5. Scared of crowd
6. Need to learn:
  - Tobian Language
  - Tobian Culture

**Youth Suggestions for Increased Participation:**

- Provide suggestion boxes
- Have separate meetings for Youth
- Youth to learn how and when to speak (culturally appropriate)
- Have youth rep in State government
- Build communications between youth and leaders
- Better awareness for youth
- Have youth trainings in leadership skills
- Government to provide quarterly updates to youth and vice versa
- Allow youth involvement in government activities

## Session 4: Men's Session – Tuesday, March 20, 2018

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**Men's Session:**

The men's session was originally scheduled for Friday, March 16, 2018 however since only two men were able to attend that session on Friday, it was decided to reschedule for Tuesday, March 20, 2018 and that the meeting be held in the community in Echang instead of at the Koror State Assembly

Hall. There were 12 men who attended this meeting on Tuesday, March 20, 2018 in Echang. The main priority issues according to men who attended this session are as follows:

1. Open communications/transparency between state government and community
2. Consistent community engagement with leaders
3. Elected leaders should unite with citizens and unite the citizens as well
4. Lack of Master Plan for the state
5. Economic development (Sustainable)
  - a. Revenue
  - b. Jobs
6. Infrastructure improvements
  - a. Electricity
  - b. Sanitation/Sewer/Trash
  - c. Water system
  - d. Dispensary with nurse and doctor
  - e. Telecommunications (phone/internet)
7. Documentation of cultures/traditions
8. Consistent and reliable transportation
9. Address traditional issues
10. Respect among everyone- leaders and community members, especially at community meetings
11. Have a place of meeting that is conducive to the community and is culturally appropriate, like a community center or bai
12. Hold public hearings on introduced laws or bill to pass
13. Leaders should consider public ideas, not shut them down
14. Regular community meetings
15. Community driven to community service and volunteer work
16. Climate change impacts – displacement
17. Land for Tobians on Koror in case of displacement
18. Religion: community engagement through the church

**MEN'S TOP PRIORITIES:**

1. Open communications/transparency between state government and community
2. Economic development
3. Infrastructure improvements
4. Regular community meetings



## Session 5: Final Community Meeting, Monday, April 9, 2018

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The final meeting was originally scheduled for March 26, 2018 but due to a storm it had to be rescheduled. It was later scheduled and held at the Echang Gym on Monday, April 9, 2018. The meeting started with a photo and video presentation by Richard Brooks, a professional photographer who lives in Palau and recently went to Hatohobei and Helen's Reef at the invitation of the State and captured many amazing photos and video clips. He showed his photos and footage at the opening of the meeting. After the photo and video presentation, Wayne Andrew opened the meeting with a prayer and the Honorable Huana Nestor, Governor of Hatohobei State, welcomed everyone. The Community Facilitators each presented on various group results (women, youth, and men) including the parking lot and suggestion box responses. The Project Officer gave a brief overview of next steps with respect to the LGSP work and project activities including the upcoming Public Financial Management Training, Annual Leaders Forum and Governance Clinic for Leaders. The Honorable Sabino Sakarias, Speaker of the Hatohobei State Legislature gave closing remarks and noted the need to conduct more consultation with the community on various policies and legislation.



## Parking Lot



The parking lot was used as a facilitation tool whenever issues would arise that are important to discuss but would require a much longer discussion that would be more appropriate at another time, these issues/topics or comments were listed in the “parking lot” to remind us to address these later and that these issues are not lost but will be taken up at a later more appropriate time. The “parking lot” issues that came up throughout the governance clinic were:

1. Support for transportation to and from the island.
2. Economic Development
  - a) Other sources of employment
  - b) Attract Tobians to live and work on Tobi
  - c) Salt production/ Sea Salt
  - d) Technology needed
  - e) Question of migration back to Tobi Island
3. Prioritize needs
4. Traditional leaders needed to lead (Chief and Queen)
5. Add to knowledge product manual: “Roles and Powers of Local Citizens”
6. Judiciary system (Traditional/National)
7. Create space for learning from one generation to the next
8. Connect SDGs to local community level
9. More in-depth awareness and education on child abuse
10. Establish Department of Youth and Social Affairs
  - Learn their civic duties as future leaders of Tobi
  - Sister state help
    - Permanent space/land
    - Homestead/leasing plans
  - Set goals and priorities: long vs. short term
  - State government should set priority to negotiate for needs of the citizens

## Suggestion Box

### Cards Sorted by Relevance to Group:

#### Men:

1. Men of Tobi should form Men's Group to be more active in men's role for Tobi.

#### Youth:

1. Youth groups seemingly don't have a voice in government. We have a youth organization but only geared towards sporting events. We should start getting the youth organized to participate in government. We are the future leaders, so we should learn to be leaders today.
2. Have the National Government set age limit for the youth, or lower the age limit to reasonable age to be considered youth in order to encourage young minds for brilliant young ideas, not just to follow adult ideas. Give opportunity to the youth to manage their own organization freely.
3. Let the youth make their own decision making.
4. Transition and/or transparent of a youth officers finances and activities.
5. Note: No adult involved with youth decision-making. No politics involved in a youth organization. Youth should be neutral.

#### Culture & Tradition:

7. How can we revitalize our culture? We live far away from our "home", growing up in another "culture". How do we teach/learn culture and traditions in this environment?
8. I see that our traditional practices are no longer practiced or we lost all. Those that we called "Chief" or "Romohaparuh" are not doing their roles. Community are doing Westerners ways and this generations grow up lacking traditional ways. How can the community of Hatohobei truly know and identify their true chief and counterpart through lineage, clan and heritage?

## KEY LESSONS LEARNED

**Venue Selection** – Community facilitators advised that if the venue required walking up stairs that it would be a barrier especially for the older members of the community. We also learned that hotels like Palasia are not a comfortable venue for many community members and could be another barrier for good participation. While Koror State Assembly Hall was the main venue for the governance clinic for citizens, a suggestion came through that it would be best not to have this type of a meeting at another State's Office.

**Food Preparation** – Preparation of food was done by a community church group who was fundraising for a trip to Italy and the Vatican City. They prepared the food for each of the sessions as well as the first and final community meetings. I highly recommend continuing this practice of using a community or traditional group to provide food for the meetings instead of catering from a hotel or restaurant.

**Suggestion Box** – A suggestion box was present at each meeting and people were asked to write down on an index card to be put in the suggestion box the answers to the following three questions:

1. Any ideas on ways to get more citizen participation in public discourse & decision making for your State/community?
2. What are your main concerns/challenges with respect to Palau & your State/community?
3. Anything else you'd like to share.

This was a great way to get information that people didn't want to say and to also get input from those who are unable to or not comfortable to speak in front of others.

**Ground Rules** – Ground rules were suggested by the community facilitators as a way to help people to speak up and to remember to participate as citizens. The Four Agreements – were included with the ground rules as a way to help encourage professionalism and emotional maturity for the sometimes difficult discussions and to deal with differences of opinions.

**Parking Lot** – The Parking Lot worked well as a facilitation tool to help curb the discussion getting off track and especially as a way to capture important points and topics that should be addressed by the community sometime in the future. I highly recommend using this tool in the future.

### **Evaluations**

Although there was no pre-evaluation conducted for this activity however a questionnaire was created and was handed out. Participants did not complete the evaluation form at the end of the meeting. It is advised that evaluations be translated into the local language and have a larger font size.