



NEWS RELEASE

GUAM SPEAKER, JUDITH T. WON PAT SWORN IN AS PRESIDENT OF ASSOCIATION OF PACIFIC ISLAND LEGISLATURES

POHNPEI, FSM – December, 2012 - Guam Legislative Speaker, Judith T. Won Pat, Ed. D. has been elected and sworn in as president of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures (APIL), a legislative organization representing twelve member legislative entities from Micronesia and the Pacific. The Oath of Office took place for the new officers of APIL on December 4, 2012 at the Pohnpei State Legislature Chambers in Kolonia, Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia. Pohnpei State Supreme Court



Chief Justice, Honorable Benjamin Rodriguez administered the Oath to the new officers of APIL. Other new APIL Officers sworn in were the Republic of the Marshall Islands "Nitijela" member and Senator, Honorable



Kenneth Kedi who is APIL Vice President. Kosrae State Senator, Honorable Chang William headed the office of APIL Secretary. Pohnpei State Senator, Vice Speaker Fernando Scaliem, APIL Treasurer, was currently on an off-island medical travel and will be administered the Oath at a later time.

"It is an honor to be selected by my colleagues to serve as president of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures," Won Pat said. "We are looking at a number of areas of mutual interest where regional cooperation, coordination, exchange and assistance can help our individual governments achieve important goals through collective action. I'm pleased that Guam will play a role in these efforts, and that I will have an opportunity to contribute to helping improve the lives of our Pacific Island neighbors."

Walden K.C. Weilbacher, APIL Central Secretariat said, "It has been a pleasure working with Speaker Won Pat as our vice-president, and we are proud to have her as our new president. She brings to the office an expertise and unique perspective that will be extremely valuable to APIL as we continue our efforts to serve our member states."



Mr. Aren Palik, President and CEO
Pacific Islands Development Bank

APIL also includes four affiliated organizations: the Pacific Islands Development Bank (PIDB), a regional development finance institution established by APIL to assist member countries in accelerating their economic and social development through lending and other programs; the Ayuda Foundation, a humanitarian organization which offers a number of medical and educational programs to assist the Association in achieving its goals; Reach Out Pacific (REPAC), a Hawai'i-based organization that delivers medical and other supplies to the Pacific; Digital Society Foundation, an organization based in Australia that is actively looking at ways to connect the Blue

Continent and help alleviate and reduce the current digital divide that exists in Micronesia and the Pacific.

Aren Palik, president and CEO of PIDB, looks forward to Speaker Won Pat's leadership as the region faces new challenges. "We are always looking for fresh perspectives," said Palik. "Economic and social development have to take place in an ever-changing global landscape.



Sen. Glenn Wakai, President
REPAC

Experience has shown that Speaker Won Pat will be an effective leader and ally in fulfilling our mission."

Carlotta Leon-Guerrero, Executive Director of the Ayuda Foundation, said, "Speaker Won Pat has always been a great supporter of our foundation, and I welcome her continued leadership with APIL. We all look forward to her assistance as we continue to help others."



Carlotta Leon Guerrero, Executive Director
AYUDA Foundation

Speaker Won Pat was elected president at the APIL's 31st General Assembly in Saipan, CNMI, June, 2012.



(L-R) Senator Chang William (Kosrae, FSM), Chief Justice Benjamin Rodriguez (Pohnpei Supreme Court), Senator Kenneth Kedi (RMI) and Speaker Won Pat (Guam)

The APIL's mission is to organize a permanent association of mutual assistance by representatives of the people of the Pacific Islands. Current issues before the APIL include those arising in the areas of Resources and Economic Development, Commerce, Legislation, Energy, Regional Security and Defense, Communications, Cultural Appreciation, Health and Social Services, Education, Agriculture, Air and Sea Transportation, Aquaculture, Sports and Recreation, Youth and

Senior Citizens, Tourism, Finance, Political Status, External Relations, and Development Banking.

Among the Pacific Island states participating in the APIL are American Samoa; Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) State of Chuuk; FSM State of Kosrae; FSM State of Pohnpei; FSM State of Yap; Island of Guam; Republic of the Marshall Islands; Republic of Palau; State of Hawai'i; Republic of Kiribati; and Republic of Nauru.



Other State Senators and Delegates witnessing the Oath of Office

For more information:

Association of Pacific Island Legislatures:

www.apilpacific.com

Pacific Islands Development Bank: www.pacificidb.com

Reach Out Pacific: www.reachoutpacific.org

Ayuda Foundation: www.ayudafoundation.org



(L-R: Front) Sen. William, Sen. Telep, Sen. Lekka, Sen. Respicio, Sen. Lickaneth and Del. Rengulbai (L-R: Back) Sen. Wakai, Sen. Kedi, Sen. Subolmar-RAGLMAR, Del. Kesolei, Speaker Falan, Speaker Won Pat, Sen. Palsis, Del. Rafael (1st), Speaker D.L. Guerrero and Floor Leader R. Taulung