

Report for 2002GU7B: Water Quality Analysis and Water System Operation and Maintenance Training for Chuuk State FSM

There are no reported publications resulting from this project.

Report Follows:

PROJECT SYNOPSIS REPORT

Project Title

Water Quality Analysis and Water System Operation and Maintenance Training for Chuuk State FSM

Problem and Research Objectives

The need for effective information transfer on all aspects of water resources topics is immediate in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). This need arises from physical remoteness and political changes. Water resources training for all personnel working in water and wastewater industries is critical in the Federated States of Micronesia where waterborne diseases can reach world record levels.

Micronesia is an area where formal reports and professional publications are simply not effective information transfer vehicles. The most effective means of information transfer is one-on-one or small group discussions and presentations. Consequently, a training program was designed for the state of Chuuk with the objectives of (1) providing technical information on drinking water quality issues, and (2) training local personnel in pump station equipment, operation and maintenance.

Methodology

The methods used to meet both objectives of the training program included formal lectures, laboratory sessions, and field training in protocols of sampling and analysis, evaluating water quality data, and on-site maintenance of water pumping stations. Pertinent water resources issues were selected for discussion from the fields of water quality and water distribution systems. Lectures were augmented with detailed handouts, overheads, slide presentations and practical demonstrations. Emphasis was given to providing hands-on experience and training for both sessions of the training.

The instructional team of the Institute provided the water quality section of the training, and a consulting engineer provided the hands-on operation and maintenance section of the training. Twenty-five (25) students from Chuuk State Public Utility Corporation (CPUC) and Chuuk State Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) participated in this training.

Principal Findings and Significance

The significant accomplishments of this project were:

1. It provided technical understanding of water resources related issues such as water distribution systems, water quality sampling and analysis, and operation and maintenance of pumping stations to the participants who work at related water resources agencies in Chuuk State, FSM.
2. It facilitated the long-term development of a partnership between the Institute and water resources professionals in Chuuk State, FSM.

We consider that one of the critical water resources need for islands in the FSM is for practical hands-on education and field training on a number of water related issues. To date, WERI has made an impact in bringing improved technical self-sufficiency to the water resources professionals and water planners on Yap, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and now Chuuk. They are now more fully aware of the needs and practical application of stringent water quality sampling and water system operation and maintenance.