

# Daisy takes action at IA

**D**aisy Alik-Momotaro's message to the staff at the Ministry of Internal Affairs is, "get out into the community." Her message to the community is, "we want to partner with you."

**New Secretary of Internal Affairs Daisy Momotaro.**

**Focus on the museum**

She is the recently appointed Secretary of Internal Affairs, and the first secretary in government who has a wealth of non-government organization experience. She previously directed the national women's organization WUTMI for seven years.

"I strongly believe we can make a difference," she said in an interview.

She pointed out that last year's election wiped out most of IA's budget for the current fiscal year, and she lamented the small budget allocated for the outer islands division — "such a little budget for so large a population." But with an exuberance typical of people who work in the NGO community, Daisy sees numerous funding opportunities.

"I see so many opportunities for outside funding," she said. "We're going to try to get funding to help (IA programs)."

Another division under IA that is lacking funding is V7AB. "They have had no budget other than salaries for three years," she said.

Her message to IA supervisors is, "go talk to the embassies in Majuro and visit the grant writers at the Ministry of Finance. They'll help write grants. We need to be networking with the relevant people."

Under the Internal Affairs umbrella are such divisions as Community Development, Sports and Recreation, Outer Islands, Local Government Affairs and a Price Monitoring Board.

"We work for people," she said. "We have to be aggressive and get out into the community. I tell IA staff to strengthen partnerships. Talk with WUTMI, WAM, Youth to Youth in Health and other NGOs. They know how to implement projects."

GIFF JOHNSON

**'We have to be aggressive and get out into the community. I tell IA staff to strengthen partnerships.'**

She is looking to connect people and issues that the ministry has not touched before.

"We work for them (the community)," she said. "Don't wait for the NGO to come to us. We need to approach them. We'll be stronger this way."

She sees a role for IA in working on climate change by linking outer islands local governments with climate change initiatives. "The local governments are the best to target on climate change," she said. Alik-Momotaro pointed out that WUTMI involves its outer island members in addressing this issue at the local level, and looking at projects that can improve life that can be supported by climate change funding that is available for "adaptation and resilience" work.

Her goal is to expand partnerships, not only with the community but through government. "Government agencies tend to be disconnected from each other," she said. "If we partner, we get a lot done."



Alele Museum is back in operation, and new Secretary Daisy Alik-Momotaro is working to improve funding options for the beleaguered operation.

For the past several months, Alele has been closed for lack of funding to pay staff.

Alele received funding from the US Historic Preservation program in the past, but this was cut off. Alik-Momotaro said the US funding program "lost trust" in Alele. She has been working to rebuild the relationship, including attending a recent regional Historical Preservation Office (HPO) meeting in Guam.

She also said that Alele is looking to access international funding beyond the HPO support it has traditionally received.

She is keen to see Alele connected with the Marshall Islands Visitors Authority and NGOs to strengthen the links between culture and tourism. She noted that in Palau, the HPO office, the museum and the visitors bureau all work together.

**Thursday, May 3**

**8th Annual JAPANESE SPEECH CONTEST**

**4:30 - 8:00pm**  
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## Phillip, Tony to S. Korea

Minister Phillip Muller and Minister Tony deBrum left Majuro Tuesday for a meeting in S. Korea.

Joining them on the trip is President's Office staff member Bruce Kijiner.

## Wotje land title dispute in court

A trial in the Traditional Rights Court started earlier this week. It is focusing on a Wotje Atoll land title dispute filed by Masaki Jacob against Irojlaplap Remios Hermios and Wilfred I. Kendall.

This is the second trial handled by the TRC since the three-judge panel was reappointed in 2011.

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**PLACEMENT TEST**

**Date: Saturday, May 5, 2012**  
**Time: 9:00 AM**  
**Venue: Reblebleb Building, Classroom #201**

**Contact information:**  
College of the Marshall Islands, Admission's office,  
Phone: 625-3291/3394 ext: 225 and 227  
Email: cmiadmissions@cmi.edu

**Deadline for Submitting Application for Admission and Financial-Aid**  
for Summer Semester 2012 - April 30  
for Fall Semester 2012 - June 30

**Registration Dates for Summer Semester**  
**June 1** .... Final Registration for Early Register student  
**June 4-5** . Registration for All  
**June 6** .... Late Registration  
**June 6** .... First Day of Instruction