

PALAU LANGUAGE COMMISSION

Omelechesel
(Sber)
Me A
Usbechel a Tekoi er a Belau

DOCUMENT RESUME

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ABSTRACT

This paper is a report by the Palau Language Commission on its work on Palauan Orthography and Grammar Usage. It summarizes actions taken by the Commission in relation to its mandate under RPPL 8-7.

The members of the Palau Language Commission unanimously concluded that the existing system of Palauan grammar and orthography that is being implemented in our schools by the Ministry of Education is comprehensive and complete in scope. This is the concept prescribed and defined by Dr. Lewis S. Josephs and Mr. Masa-Aki N. Emesiochl.

By this action, the members of the Palau Language Commission have officially and formally adopted this concept and system of writing and spelling Palauan. A copy of this report shall be forwarded to the Speaker of the House of Delegated, the President of the Senate, and the President of the Republic of Palau. Furthermore, the Palau Language Commission shall ensure that this information will be disseminated to all appropriate parties, agencies, and the general public.

REPORT ER A

PALAUAN LANGUAGE COMMISSION

EL KIREL A

OMELECHESEL ME A USBECHEL A TEKOI ER A BELAU

OMESODEL

A **Palau Language Commission** a mlukdubech er a Ongeai el Olbiil er a Kelulau el okiu a llach el lamba er ngii a RPPL 8-7, el ultebedii a re-Senators el **Kathy Kesolei**, **Regina Mesebeluu**, **Joel Toribiong**, me a **Regis Akitaya**, e ng saiing er ngii a **President Johnson Toribiong** el mo llach er se er a teruich me a eai el kebesengil a Ongeai el buil er a rak er a eru el telael me a etiu. Me a rechad el miltutk er a President e mlengai a kengei er tir er a Olbiil er a Kelulau el mo chedal tia el Commission a ngar er ngii a:

Noah Secharraimul	Chairman
Ignacia Oilouch Rengulbai	Vice Chairman
Gregorio Ngirmang	Seceretary/Treasurer
Alfonso Uchel Megreos	Member
Kazumoto Rengulbai	Member
Rachel N. Ucherbelau	Member
Debbie Tkel-Sbal	**Director er a Curriculum me a Instruction er a MOE

**A Director er a Curriculum me a Instruction me a lechub e ng chad el omtechei er ngii a ulterekokl el di chedal a commission.

A Ngerechelel tia el Commission a mo mengeluolu e olterekokl e melisiich a usbechel a tekoi er a Belau. Tia el ngerachel a sebechel el mekedmokl el okiu aika el beldukl er a eou:

1. Ng mo kudmokl a kerebil me a llechul a usbechel me a omengiuel a tekoi er a Belau me a dirrek el melemalt el omelechesel (sper) a tekoi er a Belau.
2. Ng mo kudmokl e meketakl a llach el kirel a osisebel a beches el tekoi me a lleng el tekoi el mo bebil er a tekinged a rechad er a Belau.
3. E mo mutebechel a teletael el dokiu ngii e osiseb aika el beches el llechul a tekoi er a Belau el mo suobel er a skuul.
4. Ng mo kudmokl e otobed, me a lechub e ng ngosuir a omengedmeklel me a otebedel a “dictionary”me a “hong”, er a usbechel me a omengiuel a tekoi er a Belau, me a ngii di el babier er a tekoi er a Belau.
5. Ng mo sebechel el ngmodech, a le kirel, aike el ngar er ngii el llechul me a kerebil a tekoi er a Belau.
6. Ng okiu a klaodengei er a Ministry er a Education me aike el bebil er a skuul e ng sebechel el ngmodech aike el omesubel a tekoi er a Belau er a skuul.

UREREALL

A uchelel a ureram e ng mlo bleketakl el kmo, a kot el ngerechelel tia el Palau Language Commission a mo oterekokl a blekeradel me a llach el kirel a usbechel me a omelechesel a tekoi er a Belau. A rechedal a board a kmal el mlo ungil el medengei el kmo, a Ministry er a Education (MOE) a mla mechelii a osisecheklel me a omesubel a beches el omelechesel (sper) a tekoi er a Belau er a bek el skuul el lulemuchel er a melengel a rak er a 1970. Tia a bla lolsisechakl er ngii el kemanget el taem me a buai a mla mo klbadel er ngii.

Tia el Commission a ulemuchel er a dmolech el omesubel er a llechul a tekoi er a bebil er a beluu el ua: tekoi er a Chamorro, me a Huriping, me a tekoi er a Maori el tirke el kmal el techel a miich er a New Zealand, me a tekoi er a Beluulechab, Kosrae, me a lmuut el bebil er a tekoi el ua tekoi er a Siabal, Korea, American-English, British-English, Australian-English, me a Hindu el tekoi er a India. Me a teletelel a omeluches el ousbech a olangch el di ua aika el "Roman Alphabets" a subedid er a bleketakl el tekoi el kmo, a omelekoi el tekoi (language) a kirel a oto (sound) me a uldekial a kakerous el oto el tuobed er a ngered. A llechukl el tekoi a melasem el olecholt me a lechub e ng meluches a morenges el tekoi el mo er a llechukl el okiu a usbechellel a bebil er a olangech el lomtechei a bebil er a morenges el tekoi. A resemong er a tekoi (linguists) a sebechir el mo medengei a teketekel a tekoi el tuobed er a ngor e sebechel el smaod, e chodereder el mo er se el lolkael el sebechel el medangch a chelmengel a tekoi (consonants), delal a tekoi (vowels), me a bebil er a telengtengil a tekoi (language).

A osisecheklel me a omesubel a tekoi er a Belau er chelecha el ousbech er ngii er a skuul a kmal el cherrungel. Ng kmal el mlo dmolech a omesubam er a bla el otutii el teletael er a omesuub el bla lousbech er ngii a Ministry er a Education er aika el skuul-buai el mla chengelakl er a okedei el rak. Ng betok el oberaod el ker a mo er ngii er a uldesued se el bo dolemolem er tia el ureor:

- Tia el ngar er ngii el teletael er chelecha ng sebeched el ousbech er ngii? Tiang, ng smaod aike el luchetemel a llechukl el tekoi?
- Ng ngar er ngii a kuk di ngodech el teletael er a omeluches? Ngera ngar er ngii el sebeched el ousbech el teletael?
- Ng ngar er ngii a ngelsengesel? Ng ngar er ngii a ngodech el teletael el mo smisichii? A ngeso el ngar er ngii ng di ungil besul (el ua klekedall, rungil el sensei, me a osisechakl)? Tia el mla mutaut el omelechesel a tekoi er a Belau ng ungil el oureor?
- A rengalek er a skuul ng ua ngera a uldesuir el kirel? Tirka te llemolem a omesubir el kirel?

Me a bo donger aika el ker, e a Palau Language Commission a kirel el mo:

- Omes a "hong", me a klekedall, me a ngii di el llechukl el kirel a omelechesel me a omelekingel a tekoi er a Belau.
- Ng mengedecheduch el obengterir a rechad er a skuul me a resensei me a rengalek er a skuul el mo medengelii tia el ureor.

- Ng dirrek el mo medengei el kmo, a rechad er a beluu ng ua ngera a uldesuir el kirel tia el teletelel a beches el omeluches me a usbechel a tekoi er a Belau.

A mo rolel e aki mo kudmeklii tia el ureor a mo oterekeklii el mo odak a eru el ureor. A kot, e ng kmal el kiram el mo ungil al tirterii se el uldasu me a omerellel a beldeklel a tekoi er a Belau. Me a le ua isei e aki milsuub, e merritel, e omes, e mesaod a omesodel me a belkul el lulecholt er a betok el hong, me a betok el bedengel a mla meluches el babier el kirel a dongederoder me a dousbech me a omelechesel (sper) a tekoi er a Belau, "tokuni" aike el ngar er ngii el babier el kirel a omesodel me a omelechesel a tekoi er a Belau. Aki kmal el mlo ungil el omes aike el mla meruul e kldmokl el urerel a **Mr. Masa-Aki N. Emesiochl** me a **Dr. Lewis S. Josephs** me a rebebil. A urerir a blo loukerebai tia el Commission er a omesubir. Aika el ngar er ngii el hong er a omesubel me a omesodel a tekoi er a Belau me a omelechesel (sper) me a kuk di ngodech el ua ingii el tekoi a:

- **Palauan Grammar Reference,** Volume I; 1975; BY Dr. Lewis S. Josephs; assisted by Mr. Masa- Aki N. Emesiochl, Mr. Masaharu Tmodrang and Dr. Helen Wilson.
- **New Palauan-English Dictionary;** 1977; by Dr. Lewis S. Josephs; based on Palau-English Dictionary by Fr. Edwin G. McManus, S.J.
- **Handbook of Palauan Grammar, Volume I;** 1975; by Lewis S. Josephs; assisted by Mr. Masa-Aki N. Emesiochl of Ministry of Education
- **Handbook of Palauan Grammar-Teacher's Manual**, Volume I; 1975; by Lewis S. Josephs assisted by Mr. Masa-Aki N. Emesiochl.
- **Handbook of Palauan Grammar, Volume II**; 1977; by Dr. Lewis S. Josephs, assisted by Mr. Masa-Aki N. Emesiochl
- **Handbook of Palauan Grammar-Teacher's Manual, Volume II**; 1977; by Dr. Lewis S. Josephs, assisted by Mr. Masa-Aki N. Emesiochl.
- **Palauan Studies Curriculum Framework,** 1993; by Mr. Masa-Aki N. Emesiochl and Palauan Studies Curriculum Framework Committee, 1988-1993.
- **Conversational Palauan;** by Debbie Tkel-Sbal.
- **Kerresel A Klechibelau,** Palau Language Lexicon; 2000; by Augusta Ramarui and Melii K. Temael; Belau National Museum.

Usbechel me a Omesodel me a Omelechesel (sper) a Tekoi er a Belau

A urerel me a omelechesel (sper) a tekoi er a Belau a ulemuchel er a ngar er a 1940"s. A "dictionary" er chelecha el lurruul er ngii a Lewis S. Josephs, a ultuil er a rirellii a Badrei Edwin McManus el "*Word List of Grammar Notes: Palauan-English and English-Palauan*" el kot el mlo er ngii er a 1955. Tia el "Word List" a silmecheklii se el dimla ngar er ngii el ureor el kildmeklii er a 1949 el ulbengkel a ngelseuil a David Ramaruii, el seikid el taem e ng mle sensei

er a Oreor, el mle ultuil er a dimla mekedmokl el urrerel a **Dr. A. Capells** el "*A Grammar of the Language of Palau*". Tia el urerel a Dr. Capells a kmal el di mle beot el "**tekoi er a Inglis el mo tekoi er a Belau"** el mades a bekord el ngar er a edei el telael el tekoi el obengkel a omesodel a tekoi er a Belau.

A delongelel a rak er a 1955 me a 1968 e a Badrei Mcmanus a chiloit a bebil er a temel el menglou e mesmechokl er se el beches el nglingil me a usbechel a tekoi. Ng ulkiu a uldasu el mo oltobed er tia el beches el babier e ng mlo er a Honolulu el mo mesaod aika el ngar er ngii el klekakebosech (mondai) er a tekoi er a Belau ngii me a **Clayton Carlson** er a **Pacific and Asia Linguistic Institute** er a **University er a Hawaii**. Me ng tiaikid el omerael a uchul ea Badrei McManus a liluut el sumechokl aike el babilngel er a tekoi er a Belau, e a uriul e ng uldurokl ngii el leru el babier er a nglingil a tekoi el mo er a Georgetown University me te mle "type" el mo er a "photo-ready galleys" (betok er a eua el dart el llel a babier) el mla er a uldasu el bo loltobed.

Uriul er a kerior me a mle bkais chemrungel el kodellel a **Badrei McManus** er a Ongetiu el buil er a 1969, e aike el babier a mlo er a chimal a Badrei Felix Yaoch, e ng millemolem el lomekord e mesmechokl e liluut el dochel a bebil er a urerel. Se er a 1972 ea Dr. Lewis S Josephs a mle ketengel el mes aika el babier er a lengar er a Georgetown University.

A uchelel a rak er a 1970's e a ureor el kirel a omesubel a tekoi er a Belau me a omelechesel a mla er ngii el okiu a ngelseuil a U.S. Trust Territory Government. Ng mla er ngii a cheldebechelir a rechad er a semcheklel a omelechesel a tekoi (sper) el milteketek el blo el oungerachel er ngii a **Palau Orthoraphy Committee** er a rak er a 1972 el mo er a 1973. A rechedal er tia el chelechad el tir a ulureor el obengkel a Dr. Lewis S. Josephs el kirel tia el omesubel a tekoi er a Belau a mla er ngii a:

1. **Father Felix Yaoch**
2. **Francisco Morei**
3. **Juan Polloi**
4. **Timarong sissior**
5. **Rengulbai Ngeburech**
6. **Santos Ngodrii**
7. **Hermana Remarui**
8. **Hubert Elechuus**
9. **Masa-Aki N. Emesiochl**
10. **Masaharu Tmodrang**
11. **Sadang (Ngiraecherang) Silmai**

Ng mle ultuil er a urerir me a ltiriter tia el chelechad e a ulterekokl el llechul a "sper" er a tekoi er a Belau a mle kot el mo er ngii, e te mlo ousbech er a skuul el uriul er isei. Aikakid el llach a luluusbech a Dr. Josephs er a omelechesel a babilngel, e a tokubets e se el selmechokl el "New Palauan-English Dictionary".

A osisiu el taem e a Mr. Masa-Aki N. Emesiochl me a rebebil er a rechad a dilak e uluureor el obengkel a Dr. Lewis S. Josephs me a resemong er a omesubel a tekoi el olterekokl

er a mo cherderdelel a tekoi er a Belau me a llechul a omeluches (sper). Tia a mlo sebechel el mo er ngii el ureor e le ng tilobed a ngeso el udoud el mla er a kabelment er a Trust Territory of Pacific Island, National Science Foundation, me a Culture Learning Institute er a East-West Center er a University of Hawaii. A milekedmokl el ulkiu tia a mle omelechesel me a otebedel a "*Palau Reference Grammar*" er a 1975 el ulekiu a Lewis S. Josephs, me a ngelseuil a Masa-Aki N. Emesiochl, Masaharu Tmodrang, me a Helen Wilson. Se er a 1977 e ng milekedmokl a omelechesel me a otebedel se el "New Palauan-English Dictionary" el ulkiu a Lewis S. Josephs me a ulengesuil a Masa-Aki N. Emesiochl.

Se el *Palau Reference Grammar* el mle kot el babier el mekedmokl el mle cherrungel e dmolech a omesodel a llechul a usbechel me a omelechesel e a tekoi er a Belau. Ng ousbech a bebil er a meklou a belkul el beldeklel a tekoi me a kerebil a ileakl el teletelel a tekoi er a Belau. A tekoi er a Belau a ileakl e dmolech a belkul el tekoi. Ng di merekmo se el mocholt a llechukl el blekeradel e ng mochu er ngii a belkul el dotireklii a tabesul el beldeklel a llechul el mo tireklii se el kerebil a tekoi.

Tia el "hong", me a aike el ngar er a chelsel a bleketakl e dirrek el chelibelbals a lebebil er a taem. A tekoi (language) a kirel a usbechel el kabekbuk el morenges e ulekedmokl el tekoi. A rechellimosk el meduch er a tekoi (Linguist)a osiik aike el meklou e ungil el selaod el tekoi el mo uchul e kede mo medengei a kakerous el "**consentants"** me a" **vowels"** er ise el tekoi. A remilluches er tia el "hong" a mla mo sebechir el dmangch aike el meklou el omengederdelel a tekoi er a Belau. Ng rullid me ng mo sebeched el oltobed a llechul a tekoi me a omelekingel.

Ng di ua bebil er a tekoi el kede mo metik el ua se, a tekoi er a Belau a ulsiseb er ngii a betok e meklou el kldelel. Tia el "hong", (*Palau Reference Grammar*) a omuchel er a osisecheklel a orenges me a omeluches (sper) er a tekoi er a Belau. A ongingil tia e ng smaod a bebil er a telengtengil a omelekoi el tekoi er a Belau (noun me a verbs), el ngar er a "chapter 2-5". A ongingil e ng smodii se el dmolech el omesodel a beldeklel a tekoi er a Belau e chodereder aike el meklou el teletelel a omengederdelel a teketekel a tekoi er a Belau.

Se er a rak er a 1977 e se el *New Palauan-English Dictionary* a miluches er a University of Hawaii Press, el mle redechel a meringel el urerel a Mr. Josephs, Mr. Emesiochl me a rebebil. Ng mle redechel a dmolech el ureor el kirel a semecheklel me a omenglungel me a omelechesel se el nglingil a tekoi er a Belau el kildmeklii a Badrei McManus. Se er a rak er a 1990 e ng tilobed a lmuut el ungil el "dictionary". Tia el kmal el uriul el babier a uldimukl er ngii a betok el belkul a tekoi el blechoel el lousbech a rechad el bebil er ngii a lekildmokl a Robert MchKnight el ngar er se el "hong" er ngii el *Proverb of Palau* el tilobed er a rak er a 1968. Aike el eru el mechut me a beches el "hong" a uldimukl er ngii a mla mo blechoel a usbechellel el lleng el tekoi er a ngodech el beluu.

Tia el babier er chelecha a lesilmecheklii el lmuut el mo ungil er se el di mla babier er a betok el rolel. Ng betok el omesodel a bla lekilou me a lechub e te silmechokl, e a oumesingd er ngii a ngklel a bung me a charm. A ungil el okesiul a tekoi a bla el dechel er a aike el betok el mla soiseb me ng mo sebechel a chad el menguiu el mo medengelii a melemalt el usbechel a belkul a tekoi. A lleng el tekoi el ngar er a chelsel se el "dictionary" er a 1977 a kmal el di beot el

smodii a lulemuchel er ngii a tekoi er a ngodech el beluu, e tia el ngar er ngii er chelecha se el selmechokl el babier a dirrek el lochotii a uchelel a lemla er ngii a tekoi el mei. Tia a ngar er ngii a belkul el kirel a olechotel a klou el klekakebosech er a omelekingel me a lechub e ng kakerous el omelodech el mo er ngii a lemeleng aika el tekoi. A uchelel aika el lleng el tekoi er a Ngebard a lsekum e ng ngar er ngii a klou el mlengodech er a belkul me a lechub e ng usbechelel tia el lleng el mo tekoi er a Belau. A ungil el okesiul, e tia el "hong" a ousbech er a tekoi er a Belau el "honto" (a uchelel tia el tekoi a mla er a Siabal el "hontoo") el di melekoi el kirel Babeldaob el kot el klou el iungs er a Belau, el ngii a mla mengodech er se el mera el belkul er a tekoi er a Siabal.

Se er a 1993, e se el *Palauan Studies Curriculum Framework* a lultebedii a Ministry er a Education el mlo sebechel el mekedmokl el ulkiu a urerel a Masa-Aki N. Emesiochl me a **Palauan Studies Framework Development Committee** er a 1988 el mo 1992. A mle ultutelel tia el "Curriculum Framework" a mlo toketekii a mesisiich el uchetemel a omesubir a rengar er a K-12 me a uldellomel el osisecheklir a rengeleked er a blekeradel me a klaodengei el kot el klou a belkul el mo er tir er a chelsel aika el teruich me a eru el rak el lengar er a skuul.

Ng kmal el klou a belkul el bo el moterekokl el kmo, a rechedal tia el committee a kongei er tia el dmolech e klou a belkul el omesubel a tekoi er a Belau er a skuled. Aike el Committee me a remle chedal a:

Palauan Studies Framework Development Committee:

- **Masaharu Tmodrang**: 1st Committee Chairperson, Bilingual Program Coordinator; MOE.
- **Hermana Ramarui:** 2nd Committee Chairperson, 1st Committee Vice Chairperson; MOE.
- **Willy Wally**: Outreach Coordinator; Micronesia Occupational College.
- **Theodosia Blailes**: National Origin Coordinator; MOE.
- **Kalista Marbou**: Curriculum Writer, Bilingual Program; MOE.
- **Katsue Ngiruos**: Teacher, Koror Elementary School; MOE.
- **Yorang Miner:** Teacher, Palau High School; MOE.
- **Humio Kebekol**: Teacher, Meyuns Elementary School; MOE.

External Reviewer

- **Dr. Robert Gibson**: Consultant, University of Hawaii.

Internal Review Committee

- **Emil Ramarui**: Chief, Division of Elementary Education; MOE
- **Masa-Aki N. Emesiochl**: Director, Bureau of Curriculum @ Program Development; MOE
- **Leo Ruluked:** Chief, Division of Secondary Education; MOE
- **Bernie Kelderman**: Science Specialist; MOE
- **Martin Sokau**: Chapter II Coordinator; MOE
- **Romana Anastasio**: English Language Program Coordinator; MOE

- **Basilio Deltang**: Principal, Meyuns Elementary School; MOE
- **Teruo Rengulbai**: Agriculture Specialist; MOE
- **Masaharu Tmodrang**: Bilingual Program Coordinator; MOE
- **Kaleb Olkeriil:** Principal, Koror Elementary School; MOE
- **Kalistus Ngirturong**: Principal, Aimeliik Elementary School; MOE
- **Rosemary Mersai**: Assistant Principal, Palau High School; MOE
- **Miriam Sakuma:** Classroom Teacher, Meyuns Elementary School; MOE
- **Regina Mesebeluu**: Health Education Specialist; MOE
- **Riosang Salvador**: Social Studies Coordinator; MOE
- **Thoedore Borja**: Social Studies Classroom Teacher, Palau High School; MOE
- **Johana Malsol**: Classroom Teacher, George B. Harris Elementary School; MOE
- **Ferisita Ulechong**: Evaluation Specialist; MOE
- **Basilia Ringang**: English Language Specialist; MOE
- **Yosko Malsol**: English Language Specialist; MOE

Writing and Technical Assistance Team

- **Ginlin Woo**: Consultant to the Ministry of Education
- **Vivian Aguilar**: Consultant to the Ministry of Education.

Ministry Staff Who Assisted with the Palauan Studies Framework Development

- **Edwel Ongerung**: Computer Specialist; MOE.

Se er a 1977 e a *Handbook of Palauan Grammar Volume I* a tilobed el okiuchei er a Volume 2 er a 1999. Aike el teblo el "hong" a mlo sebechel tuobed el ulekiu a blak el reng er a urerel a Director er a Bureau er a Curriculum me a Instruction er a Ministry er a Education el Masa-Aki N. Emesiochl. Ng mle blechoel el ngar er ngii a belkul a lengar er ngii a selmechokl el "hong" el ultuil er a *Palauan Grammar Reference* el mo er a rengalek er a high school el mesuub a tekoi er a Belau me a omelechesel. Se el Volume 1 (lesson 1-12) a kldmokl el bo el lousbech er ngii a rungetiu me a rungeteruich el skuul, e a Volume 2 (lesson 13-24) a mo er a rungeteruich-me a-tang me a rungeteruich-me a-rongeru el skuul. A obengkel a Handbook Volume 1 me a 2 a Teacher's Manual el obengkel a suobel, "issues of discussion", kerebil a omesuub, me a "undo".

Aika el kldei el "hong" el mla mesaod er bab a ngar er ngii aike el meklou el klekedellel a tekoi er a Belau me a omelechesel el kildmokl a Dr. Lewis S. Josephs me a Masa-Aki N. Emesiochl me a chimong el ngii a lousbech er ngii el lolsisechakl aika el skuled. A bebil er a "hong' me a bebil er a babier el meklou a belkul el kirel a omesubel a tekoi er a Belau a:

- **Kerresel a Klechibelau: Palau Language Lexicon;** 2000, by Augusta Ramaruii and Melii Temael, Belau National Museum; 2000.
- **Conversational Palauan;** by Debbie Tkel-Sbal
- **Proverbs of Palau;** 1968 by Robert K. McKnight.

A ongeru el telengtengil a omerritel er a ureram a tilobed el mo er a beluu. Tiaikid e aki mlo kebetech kemam me a ruungerachel a skuul, resensei, rengalek er a skuul me a redi chad er a beluu el kirel a uldesuir el kirel tia el ngar er ngii el teletael er a omeluches el tekoi er a Belau. Aika el beldukl a ngklel a skuul el oungerachel a resensei me a rekuk derta el chad el kiblo mkaseuses er a chelsel tia el omerritel:

1. Palau High School	Ibuuch Tomoichi-Dean	Principal
	Ignacia Oilouch Rengulbai	Palauan Teacher
	Rachel N. Ucherbelau	Palauan Teacher
	Lee Ngirakesau	Palauan Teacher
	Stelinda Gabriel	Palauan Teach
	Rosemary Osima	Palauan Teacher
2. Midzenty High School	Elicita N. Morei	Principal
	Lorenza Olkeriil	Palauan Teacher
	Yorang Miner	Palauan Teacher
	Irene Francisco	Palauan Teacher
	Julie tellei	Teacher
3. Maris Stella School	Felix Okabe	Principal
4. Emmaus High School	Sioni Fakatou	Principal
	Theo. S Kuartei	Teacher/Advisor
5. Bethania Seminary School	Andrew Shiro	Palauan Teacher
6. Koror Elementary School	Andrew Tabelual	Principal
7. George B. Harris Elem. School	Wyclif Emul	Principal
	Lucia Tabelual	Vice Principal
8. Meyuns Elementary School	Alvino Kenty	Principal
9. Palau Mission Academy	Dr. Gladden Flores	Principal
	Bettina Santos	Palauan Teacher
	Williana Gideon	Palauan Teacher
10. SDA Elementary School	Jesse Malin	Vice Principal
	Margarita Aten	Palauan Teacher
	Nancy Ngirarikel	Palauan Teacher
11. Airai Elementary School	Aileen Mikel	Principal
12. Aimeliik Elementary School	Mashon Mongami	Principal
13. Ibobang Elementary School	Johnson Emesiochl	Principal
14. Belau Modekngei School	Bedebii Chiokai	Principal
	Rengiil Medalarak	Palauan Teacher
	David Ngirakesau	Palauan Teacher
15. Ngaremlenguii Elem. School	Patricia Franz	Principal
16. Ngardmau Elem. School	Ananias Ngiraiwet	Principal

17. Ngarchelong Elem. School	Pamela Swei	Principal
18. Ngaraard Elem. School	John Ngiratiou	Principal
19. Melekeok Elem. School	Margarita Tellei Wilhelm Rechelluul Gregorio Ngirmang	Principal (Ngchesar) (Ngiwal)
20. JFK Elem. School	Miriam Watts	Principal
21. Peleliu Elem. School	Ngereblunt Arurang	Principal
22. Angaur Elem. School	Tiffany Kasiano	Principal

23. Romana Anastacio	Governor, Ngchesar State
24. Sabino Anastacio	Former Minister of State, Former Senator, Delegate
25. Willy Wally	Outreach Coordinator, PCC
26. Masa-Aki N. Emesiochl	Minister of Education, MOE; Linquist
27. Peter Elechuus	Former Educator, MOE
28. Inacio Sadang	Pastor and Elder of Ngiwal State
29. Masaharu Tmodrang	Linguist/Teacher, Educator
30. Isabella Dokdok	Teacher, Retired, Ngchesar Elementary School

Me tia er a kimchadecheduch kemam me tirka el sensei, me a remengederedel a skuul, me a redi rechad, me a remechudelel a beluu, me a lechub e te ngalek er a skuul e a kiblechoel el lultuil er a nger er tir el kirel aikakid el ker:

- Aika el ngar er ngii er chelechang el omelechesel me a omelekingel a tekoi er a Belau el lousbech er a skuul er a chelechang a mo redemelel a uldasu er a ulekedmokl e mesisiich el uchetemel a tekinged?
- Ngera se el kmal el otutel tia el teletael er a chelsel a skuul?
- Tia ng otutall el oltirakl er se el kerebil a omesuub? E mekerang e ng mo sebechel el ruedem aike el meklou a belkul el suobel?
- A rengalek er a skuul ng meringel er tir el mo medengelii tia el uldasu?
- Ng ngar er ngii a ngii di lultok el kirel a usbechel tia el omelekingel me a omelechesel a tekoi er a Belau el dousbech er ngii?
- Ng ua ngera a uldesuir a rechad chokmo kede nguu tia el beches el omelechesel me a omelekingel a tekoi er a Belau?

A chelsel aike el mle omerritel er kemam, e te kmal el betok el chad a mle bleketakl a nger er tir e mesisiich el oldubech er a ngeiul tia el tekoi er a Belau me a omelechesel el ua el kloadel el tilobed el ulkiu a urerel a Dr. Lewis S. Josephs me a Mr. Masa-Aki N. Emesiochl. A tekoi er a Belau el de blechoel el ultuil er ngii, me a "hong" er a tekoi er a Belau el “Volume” 1 me a 2 me a beches el direkel a tekoi (dictionary) er a tekoi er a Belau el mo tekoi er a Ngebard.

A lmuutekung, a rokui el chad el chelsechusem er tiang a kongei, el di ua oumesingd er a re-"linguists" me a" lexicologists" el kmo, a tekoi a mengodech el oltirakl er a mengedengodech el taem. A osemecheklel, omkukel, me a omelechesel a kmal el di oltirakl er tia el mengedengodech el tekoi.

A rokui el chad a kmal el melisiich er a omengelueluel a tekoi er a Belau er a omelekoi me a omeluches. Tia a kmal el klemerang se el bo dengellomel er a mesisiich el usbechel a tekoi er a inglis el ngii a sorir a rengeasek. Kede rongesterir tirka el ngeleked el bai oumesingd el di melekoi a tekoi er a Ngebard.

Kede rokui el oumera el kmo, a lsekum e ng sebeched el rulleterir a rengeleked el mo ungil el klbadel e medengei a tekinged e kede mo mesa a dmolech e cherrungel el tekoi el sebeched el ousbech el meketeklii a uldesued. Te betok a omdasu el kmo, a lemengodech me a lechub e ng mesmechokl a suobel e ngera a mo rolel e ng ngoseuir el smisichii a omesuub me a usbechel a tekinged. A uldasu a uldimukl er ngii a ngeldechel a suobel, me a otebedel a betok el ungil el babier el mekbechesur a ngar er ngii el babier, me a betok el osisechakl el mo er a sensei er a tekoi er a Belau me a blak el reng el kirel a lmuut el betok el teletelel tia el ureor. A Commission a kmal el mui el kongei aika el ngar er bab el uldasu. Ng ngerechelam el mo obangel aika el tekoi.

A uriul er a bo demerek er tia el ngar er ngii el ureor el kirel a omelechesel me a omelekingel a tekoi er a Belau, e ng sebeched el ngoriakl el mo er se el ta er a dauch er a ureor. Me se el bo dolemolem el mo er a tia el beches el dauch, e aikakid aike el medechel el kirel el kedmekill:

1 Ng mo kudmokl a dechelel a llach, el like el diak me a lechub e ng olengesonges el kakedraol el mo er aike el ultebechel el kerebai se el dorodel a beches el tekoi me a lechub e kede lmeng el mo tekinged. Tia el beldeklel a tekoi me a omelechesel el kildmeklii a Mr. Josephs me a Mr. Emesiochl a ngar er ngii aika el rokui el tekoi. Ng kirel diak lbo er ngii a klekakebosech el rael el dokiu ngii e dochel a tekinged.

2 Ng mo oltobed a uldasu, a lsekum ng ngar er ngii a ultutelel el mo kirel a omelodech er a teletelel a suobel el mo osisechekill er a skuul.

3 Ng mo kudmokl e lmuches e mo otobed, me a lechub e kede ngoseuir er a omengedmeklel me a omelechesel a direkel a tekoi(dictionary) me a "hong" er a tekoi me a usbechel me a bebil er a kedmekill er a tekoi er a Belau.

4 Kede oterekeklii a rael el mo koreomel e smisiich a usbechelel a tekoi er a Belau er a skuul me a buai e kudmeklii a “report” el mo er a Olbiil er a Kelulau me a President.

Omengesmerel

Se er aki momuchel er tia el ngerechelam, e ng mle bleketakl el kmo, a kot el kedmekill a kerebil a omelekingel me a melemalt el omelechesel (sper) a tekoi er a Belau. Aki mlo chobangel a eru el uldasu. A kot, a mo omuchel er se el kmal el uchelel el mo osiik e ngmai a klaodengei er a rechellimosk el meduch er a tekoi (linguists), e mo remuul a dmolech el omesuub me a omerritel, e mo kudmokl e measem (test) er a kakerous el lotirkill me a uldasu, me ng mo er ngii a taem (rak) el bodeues a redechel aika el kakerous el lotirkill me a uldasu. E mo mengedechuul a betok el udoud el kirel a mo meklou el usbechel a udoud e sola e mo oterekeklii se el ungil er a uldasu e kongei er ngii e kudmokl a klekedall me a klaodengei el kirel a otutel.

Ea ongeru er a uldasu a ungil e le ng ngar er ngii e sebechel el ousbech er ngii. Tia el ngar er ngii er chelechang a ungil el kloadel el teletael er a omelekoi me a omeluches el lolisechakl er ngii er a skuled er chelechang. Tia mla mo ungil el meteriter e measm, a cheldechedechal tia el ngar er ngii el omelekoi me a omeluches a ulemuchel er a 1940, me a dirrek el uchei er risei. Ng mle kemanget el taem el losuub e merritel me ng betok el udoud a milechoit er tiang. Ng bleketakl el kmo, bai dengai a mui el uldesued me a osenged el kirel tia el beches el omelekoi me a omeluches er chelechang.

A klou e meringel er a uldesuam a kmo; "Ngera el teletael er a klekakebosech a bo el chebengelii tiang?" Tia el teletael er a omeluches el rirelii a Josephs er a lekot el mekedmokl er a melengel a rak er a 1970 e ng mle klou a omesodel me a cherredechel, e le ng dimlak lekloadel er a rengrir a rebetok el chad. Ng mlo chobangel a betok el lokedong el kirel a kmo, a rechad a dimlak el sorir itiang. Chelecha el sils ea remeklou me a rengeasek me a rengalek er a skuul a kmal el mesisiich el oldubech er tia el ngar er ngii el teletael er a omelekingel me a omelechesel a tekoi er a Belau. Chelecha el sils e a rengalek a mereched e bleketakl a longuiu me a loluches er tia el teletael. A usbechel tiaikid el teletael el bla bo el kloadel er ngii a rechad eng mla mo sebechir el menguiu el di ua a longuiu a tekoi er a Ngebard. Ng mo lmuut er tirke el mechuodel el chad el dirk mesuub er tia el beches el teletael er a tekoi er a Belau me te kmal el kongei er a usbechel. Te ungil el medengelii a belkul me a ultutelel a lengar er ngii a ungil el teletael er a omelekoi er a tekoi er a Belau me a melemalt el lomelechesel (sper). Aki mlo obangel a tekoi el ua " lak deluut el melasech er a ongeu", me "mei me denguu se el kot el bakes". A chelsel a chomesubam e aki mlo metik el kmo, a rechad a medengei el kmo, tia el teletael a kmal el dirk cheroid er a orekiolel. Ng dirk kemanget a ureor el omekord, omekbeches, e menglou, e meluches e oltobed, me a kuk di bebil.

A rechedal a Palau Language Commission a oumerang el kmo, te mla rukui aike el meklou a belkul el omesuub me a omerritel me a omesaod er tia el ureor. E oumera er tia el beches el omelchesel me a usbechel a tekoi er a Belau el milkedmokl e mesaod el ngar er a urerel a Dr. Lewis S. Josephs me a Mr. Masa-Aki N. Emesiochl.

A Palau Language Commission a ungil a rengul e klou a rengul el kmo, tia el teletael er a omelekingel me a omelechesel a tekoi er a Belau el mlodars er a Dr. Lewis S. Josephs me a Mr. Masa-Aki N. Emesiochl a kot el ungil el ochotii, e smodii e odersii a tekinged a rechad er a Belau, e diak lruul a uldesued el mo mededechor.

Me a le ua isei e kemam el chedal a Palau Language Commission a cherrungel e ta a uldesuam er chelecha el mo mesisiich el oldubech er a cherengelel tiang, el ngii a mo "Official System of Grammar and Orthography of the Republic of Palau (OSGOROP)", el bleketakl el okiu aika el babilengir tirka el beldukl er a eou:

1. Palau Reference Grammar; 1975; by Lewis S. Josephs
   With the assistance of: Masa-Aki N. Emesiochl, Masaharu Tmodrang, Helen Wilson.
   Editor: Donald Topping
   Social Sciences and Linguistics Institute
   University of Hawaii

2. Handbook of Palauan Grammar, Volume I & II; 1997 & 1999; by Lewis S. Josephs
   Handbook of Palauan Grammar-Teacher's Manual, Volume I & II&; 1997 & 1999; by Lewis S. Josephs
   With the assistance of: Masa-Aki Emesiochl
   Bureau of Curriculum & Insturction
   Ministry of Education, Republic of Palau

3. New Palau-English Dictionary; 1997, 1990; by Lewis S. Josephs
   Editor: Donald M. Topping
   University of Hawaii Press
   Social Science Research Institute
   Univeristy of Hawaii

ME KEMAM EL CHEDAL TIA EL PALAU LANGUAGE COMMISSION, a mla saiing a ng klam er a eou, el mui el kongei el nguu tial beches el teletel a omeluches me a omenguiu mea usbechel a tekoi er a Belau el ulcholt lokiu tial babier er a chelecha el ongetruich me a ta (11) el sils er a Ongeua (April) el buil, er a rak er a 2012.

/s/
Noah Secharaimul, Chairman

/s/
Rachel N. Ucherbelau, Memeber

/s/
Ignacia Oilouch Rengulbai, Vice Chairman

/s/
Alfonso Uchel Mekreos, Member

/s/
Gregorio Ngirman, Secretary/Treasurer

/s/
Debbie Tkel-Sbal, Member
Director of Curriculum & Instruction, MOE

/s/
Kazumoto Rengulbai, Member

Certified by: _____/s/_____
Jonathan Masaichi, PLC Staff

Recorded by: _____/s/_____
Hilda Aot Kloulechad, PLC Staff



ENGLISH TRANSLATION

PALAU LANGUAGE COMMISSION

REPORT

ON ADOPTION OF

PALAUAN ORTHOGRAPHY AND GRAMMAR & USAGE

INTRODUCTION

The **Palau Language Commission** was created by the Senate of 8th Olbiil Era Kelulau through RPPL 8-7, introduced by Senators Kathy Kesolei, Regina Mesebeluu, Joel Toribiong, and Regis Akitaya and signed into law on August 18th, 2009 by President Johnson Toribiong. The members, appointed by the President and confirmed by the 8th Senate to serve on the Commission are:

Noah Secharraimul	Chairman
Ignacia Oilouch Rengulbai	Vice Chairman
Gregorio Ngirmang	Secretary/Treasurer
Alfonso Uchel Megreos	Member
Kazumoto Rengulbai	Member
Rachel N. Ucherbelau	Member
Debbie Tkel-Sbal **	Member; Director of Curriculum & Instruction, MOE

** The Director of Curriculum & Instruction or his or her designee, representing MOE, is a permanent member of this commission.

The purpose of this Commission is to preserve, standardize, and encourage the use of Palauan language. To achieve this goal, the mandate defined the following objectives:

1. Develop standards and rules for Palauan grammar and usage as well as uniform spelling of Palauan words.
2. Establish rules by which new words and loanwords may be added to the Palauan vocabulary.
3. Determine ways to incorporate new rules and procedures into the school's curriculum to be implemented in the classrooms.
4. Prepare and publish, or assist in the preparation and publication of, dictionaries, books on grammar and usage, and other materials on Palauan language.
5. Make necessary amendments, if any, to the established language rules and standards.
6. In consultation with Ministry of Education and private educational institutions, it may recommend contents to the schools' curriculum on Palauan language on all grade levels.

THE MISSION

At the onset of our work, it was apparent that the first task of the **Palau Language Commission** is to establish standards and rules for Palauan grammar usage and orthography. Board members were very much aware that the Ministry of Education has been implementing the new grammar and spelling system in all public schools in Palau since mid-1970s. Because it has been taught for a long time, the community generally had been exposed to it enough.

The Commission began conducting research on other grammatical systems and orthographies of other countries, some of whom we are familiar with. We researched on orthography of the Chamorro language of Guam and Northern Mariana Islands, the Commission on Filipino Language of the Philippines, Maori Language Commission of the native Maori language of New Zealand, languages of Yap and Kosrae, and of other languages such as Japanese, Korean, American English, British English, Australian English, and, believe it or not, the Hindu (Kerala) language of India. Korean and Japanese uses of symbols rather that Roman alphabets reminds us of the fact that spoken languages is about sounds and combination of sounds. Written grammar tries to convey those sounds in a written form by the use of certain symbols (or letter) representing certain sounds. Linguists can recognize a sound structure of a language and are able to define and prescribe it to an extent where they can identify consonants, vowels, etc. that are unique to that language.

The Palauan grammatical system currently used in schools is very comprehensive. We decided to take an in-depth study into this existing and currently implemented system which has been used by the Ministry of Education in public schools for over thirty years. Many questions weigh heavily in our mind as we embark on this task:

- Is this current concept sufficient enough as a start? Does it cover the basics of a written language?
- What are the other available concepts and systems of writing? What are these other possible alternatives?
- How has this current orthography and grammar been implemented? Are there any support systems in place? Are they adequate enough (such as materials and qualified teachers, training, etc..)? Has implementation been successful?
- How are the students taking it? Are they learning progressively as they are supposed to?

To answer these and many other questions, the Commission must:

- Review all books, materials, and any written references on Palauan grammar and orthography.
- Meet and interview with schools administrators, teachers, and students to get their firsthand feedback on the subject, and to accurately measure actual field results on this current orthography as it is being taught in schools.
- Get a sense of where the general public stands on the issue of officially defining and adopting a system of Palauan grammar and orthography.

To accomplish our objective we divided our work into two parts**. First, we ought to look carefully at the theoretical and technical aspect of Palauan language and orthography**. To do that we researched,

reviewed, studied, and discussed the concept and contents presented in books, periodicals, and articles on grammar and usage and spelling of words, especially references to the existing Palauan grammar and orthography. We carefully reviewed the comprehensive and tested work of **Mr. Masa-Aki N. Emesiochl** and **Dr. Lewis S. Josephs**, among others. Their works were used by our Commission as main guideline in our study. The available books on Palauan grammar and word spelling and related topics are:

1. **Palauan Grammar Reference, Volume I**; 1975; by Dr. Lewis S. Josephs; assisted by Mr. Masa-Aki N. Emesiochl, Mr. Masaharu Tmodrang, Dr. Helen Wilson.
2. **New Palauan-English Dictionary**; 1977; by Dr. Lewis S. Josephs; based on Palaun-English Dictionary by Fr. Edwin G. McManus, S.J.
3. **Handbook of Palauan Grammar, Volume** I; 1975; by Lewis S. Josephs; assisted by Mr. Masa-Aki N. Emesiochl of Ministry of Education.
4. **Handbook of Palauan Grammar- Teacher's Manual, Volume I**; 1975; by Dr. Lewis S. Josephs assisted by Mr. Masa-Aki N. Emesiochl.
5. **Handbook of Palauan Grammar, Volume II**; 1977; by Dr. Lewis S. Josephs, assisted by Mr. Masa-Aki N. Emesiochl.
6. **Handbook of Palauan Grammar-Teacher's Manual, Volume II**; 1977; by Dr. Lewis S. Josephs, assisted by Mr. Masa-Aki N. Emesiochl.
7. **Palauan Studies Curriculum Framework**, 1993; by Mr. Masa-Aki N. Emesiochl and Palauan Studies Curriculum Framework Committee, 1988 – 1993.
8. **Conversational Palauan**; by Debbie Tkel-Sbal.
9. **Kerresel A Klechibelau**, Palau Language Lexicon; 2000; by Augusta Ramarui and Melii K. Temael; Belau National Museum.

Palauan grammar usage and spelling

Work on Palauan grammar and spelling dates back to 1940's. Present day dictionary by Lewis S. Josephs is based **on Fr. Edwin McManus** *"Word List and Grammar Notes: Palauan-English and English-Palauan"* that first appeared in 1955. This "Word List" is a revision of an earlier work prepared in 1949 with the assistance of David Ramarui, then a teacher in Palau, relying primarily on an earlier work by **Dr. A. Capells** titled "*A Grammar of the Language of Palau*". Dr. Capells' work was a simple English-Palauan word list of approximately 3,000 items supplemented by a discussion on Palauan grammar.

Between 1955 and 1968 Fr. McManus spent time expanding and revising his updated word list and grammar notes. With plans to publish the updated version, he went to Honolulu to discuss problems on Palauan grammar with **Clayton Carlson** of the **Pacific and Asia Linguistic Institute** of the **University of Hawaii**. As a result of this visit, Fr. McManus further revised his grammar notes, and thereafter sent both the notes and the word list to Georgetown University where they were typed onto photo-ready galleys (totaling more than 400 Pages) in anticipation of publication.

After the unfortunate and untimely death of Fr. McManus in September of 1969, the galleys fell into the hands of **Fr. Felix Yaoch**, who continued proofing the manuscripts adding more revisions and annotations to it. In 1972, Dr. Lewis S. josephs came into contact with the manuscripts for the first time at Georgetown University.

In early 1970's work on Palauan grammar and orthography was well underway in Palau under the auspices of the U.S. Trust Territory government. In fact a spelling convention was conducted by the **Palau Orthography Committee** from 1972-73. The members of this committee were:

1. **Father Felix Yaoch**
2. **Francisco Morei**
3. **Juan Polloi**
4. **Timarong Sissior**
5. **Rengulbai Ngeburech**
6. **Santos Ngodrii**
7. **Hermana Remarui**
8. **Hubert Elechuus**
9. **Masa-Aki N. Emesiochl**
10. **Masaharu Tmodrang**
11. **Sadang (Ngiraecherang) Silmai.**

It was based on the work and findings of this committee that uniform Palauan spelling rules were first established and were implemented in the classrooms soon thereafter. These rules were used by Dr. Josephs in his writings, particularly on the revised "New Palauan-English Dictionary".

It was about this time that Mr. Masa-Aki N. Emesiochl and others were working with Dr. Lewis S. Josephs and other linguists on formalizing the Palauan grammar and spelling rules. This was made possible by grant assistance from the government of the Trust Territory of Pacific Island, the National Science Foundation, and the Culture Learning Institute of the East-West Center at University of Hawaii. The result was the publication of "*Palau Reference Grammar*" in 1975 by Lewis S. Josephs assisted by Masa-Aki N. Emesiochl, Masaharu Tmodrang, and Helen Wilson. Then in 1977 came the publication of the "*New Palauan-English Dictionary*" **by Lewis S. Josephs** and assisted by **Masa-Aki N. Emesiochl.**

The *Palau Reference Grammar* provided for the first time, a formal comprehensive description and rules for a uniform Palauan grammar and usage. It captures some of the essential phonological and grammatical principles that uniquely characterize the Palauan language. Let us be reminded that Palauan language is a unique and rich language on its own. Only when it is presented in a written form that a need arises to establish a set of uniform grammar rules meeting basic linguistic principles.

This book and its contents, by nature of its subject, can become very technical and complex at times. Language is about using set of sounds to construct words, after all. Different languages use different sound, or phonemes. Linguists look for significant phonemes in a language to recognize

different consonants and vowels in that particular language. The authors of this book have been able to identify main structures of the Palauan language. Thus it enables us to formulate rules regarding our words and pronunciation.

Like any other languages, we find that Palauan language is composed of major components. This book, *Palau Reference Grammar*, begins with the Introduction to sounds and spelling of Palauan. Next, it describes some of the basic Palauan parts of speech (nouns and verbs, etc.), on Chapter 2-5. Next is the description of the salient features of Palauan morphology (word formation) and explain major syntactic constructions and grammatical system of Palauan.

In 1977 "*New Palauan-English Dictionary*" was published by University of Hawaii Press which is a result of hard work by Mr. Josephs and Mr. Emesiochl and others. It is a product of an extensive revision, expansion, and editing of Fr. McManus previous lexical list and grammar notes and other previous lexicography of Palau. In 1990 a much improved and user friendly edition of this dictionary came out. This latest version also includes wide a range of popular Palauan proverbs brought about in part by **Robert McKnight's** "**Proverbs of Palau**" published in 1968. Both the old and new editions had included widely accepted loanwords in its lexicon.

The current volume of this dictionary, however, is an improvement over the original in many ways. In addition to containing several thousand entirely new entries, it includes equal number of revisions to an equal number of original entries. Many definitions have been expanded or corrected, especially the names of flora and fauna. Phrasal and sentence examples have added to a large number of entries to give the reader a wider knowledge of proper idiomatic usage. On loanwords, whereas the 1977 dictionary simply identified the source language of a foreign word, the new revised edition also supplies the actual word from the source language. This is of particular interest in showing gross distortions of pronunciation or a variety of semantic shifts that occurred during the borrowing process. The book use "honto" (Japanese "hontoo")as an example, where Palauans use it to mean Babeldaob or the main island, which is a shift from the original meaning and use of the source language.

In 1993, *Palauan Studies Curriculum Framework* was published by the Ministry of Education, made possible by the work of Mr. Masa-Aki N. Emesiochl and the **Palauan Studies Framework Development Committee** of 1988-92. The purpose of this **Curriculum Framework** is to set a strong curriculum foundation from K to 12^{th} as well as to have a focused and organized framework to use as a guideline for the Ministry of Education in achieving its goals in Palauan Studies. Under this framework, Palauan grammar and orthography are taught alongside with Palauan studies.

It is important to acknowledge the members of this committee for such an extensive and important milestone in the study of Palauan in our schools. The committees and their respective members are:

Palauan Studies Framework Development Committee:

- **Masaharu Tmodrang**: 1st Committee Chairperson, Bilingual Program Coordinator; MOE.
- **Hermana Ramarui**: 2nd Committee Chairperson, 1st Committee Vice Chairperson; MOE.
- **Willy Wally**: Outreach Coordinator; Micronesian Occupational College.
- **Theodosia Blailes**: National Origin Coordinator; MOE.
- **Kalista Marbou**: Curriculum Writer, Bilungual Program; MOE.
- **Katsue Ngiruos**: Teacher, Koror Elementary School.; MOE.
- **Yorang Miner**: Teacher, Palau High School; MOE.
- **Humio Kebekol**: Teacher, Meyuns Elementary School; MOE.

External Reviewer:

- **Dr. Robert Gibson**; Consultant, University of Hawaii.

Internal Review Committee:

- **Emil Ramarui**: Chief, Division of Elementary Education; MOE.
- **Masa-Aki Emesiochl**: Director, Bureau of Curriculum & Program Development; MOE.
- **Leo Ruluked**: Chief, Division of Secondary Education; MOE.
- **Bernie Kelderman**: Science Specialist; MOE.
- **Martin Sokau**: chapter II Coordinator; MOE.
- **Romana Anastasio**: English Language Program Coordinator; MOE.
- **Basilio Deltang**: Principal, Meyuns Elementary School; MOE.
- **Teruo Rengulbai**: Agriculture specialist; MOE.
- **Masaharu Tmodrang**: Bilingual Program Coordinator; MOE.
- **Kaleb Olkeriil**: Principal, Koror Elementary School; MOE.
- **Kalistus Ngirturong**: Principal, Aimeliik Elementary School; MOE.
- **Rosemary Mersai**: Assistant Principal, Palau High School; MOE.
- **Miriam Sakuma**: classroom Teacher, Meyuns Elementary School; MOE.
- **Regina Mesebeluu**: Health Education Specialist; MOE.
- **Riosang Salvador**: Social Studies Coordinator; MOE.
- **Theodore Borja**: Social Studies Classroom Teacher, Palau High School; MOE.
- **Johana Malsol**: Classroom Teacher, George B. Harris Elementary School; MOE.
- **Ferisita Ulechong**: Evluation Specialist; MOE
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Writing and Technical Assistance Team:

- **Ginlin Woo**: Consultant to the Ministry of Education.
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Ministry Staff Who Assisted with the Palauan Studies Framework Development:

- **Edwel Ongerung**: Computer Specialist; MOE.

In 1997, ***Handbook of Palauan Grammar Volume I*** was published followed by ***Volume II*** in 1999. These two books were made possible by the determined Director of Bureau of Curriculum and Instruction of the Ministry of Education, Mr. Masa-Aki N. Emesiochl. There has always been a need to have a tailored textbook, based on the ***Palauan Grammar Reference***, geared for high school students studying Palauan grammar and orthography. Volume I of the "Handbook"(lesson 1-12) is intended for use in grade 9th -10th, while volume II (lesson 13-24) is for grade 11th -12th. Both ***Handbook of Palauan Grammar Volume I & II*** come with a loose-leaf Teacher's manual with lessons, issues of discussion, study guides, and exercises.

These three books, discussed at length above, constitute the core references and contents of the Palauan grammar and orthography as presented by Dr. Lewis S. Josephs and Mr. Masa-Aki Emesiochl, the one that is currently being taught in our schools. Other books and materials of note on the subject of Palauan studies that complements these books as well as of learning Palauan language are:

1. **Kerresel a Klechibelau**: Palau language lexicon" by: Augusta Ramarui and Melii Temael; 2000; Belau National Museum.
2. **Converational Palauan** by: Debbie Tkel-Sbal.
3. **Proverbs of Palau**; 1968 by Robert McKnight.

The second part of our investigation and research is the Field Work. Field work research allowed us to meet with school administrators, teachers, students and the general community to get first hand information on their feelings and opinions on the current orthography. Following is the list of schools, administrators, teachers, and individuals that we had discussions with during the course of our field research.

1.	Palau High School	Ibuuch Tomoichi Dean	Principal
		Ignacia Oilouch Rengulbai	Palauan Teacher
		Rachel N. Ucherbelau	Science Teacher
		Lee ngirakesau	Palauan Teacher
		Stelinda Gabriel	Palauan Teacher
		Rosemary Osima	Palauan Teacher
2.	Midzenty High School	Elicita N. Morei	Principal
		Lorenza Olkeriil	Palauan Teacher
		Yorang Miner	Palauan Teacher
		Irene Francisco	Palauan Teacher
		Julie Tellei	Teacher
3.	Maris Stella School	Felix Okabe	Principal

4.	Emmaus High School	Sioni Fakatou	Principal
		Theo s. Kuartei	Teacher/Adviser
5.	Bethania Seminary School	Andrew Shiro	Palauan Teacher
6.	Koror Elementary School	Andrew Tabelual	Principal
7.	George B. Harris Elem School	Wyclif Emul	Principal
		Lucia Tabelual	Vice Principal
8.	Meyuns Elementary School	Alvino Kenty	Principal
9.	Palau Mission Academy	Dr. Gladden Flores	Principal
		Bettina Santos	Palauan Teacher
		Williana Gideon	Palauan Teacher
10.	SDA Elementary School	Jesse Malin	Vice Principal
		Margarita Aten	Palauan Teacher
		Nancy Ngirarikel	Palauan Teacher
11.	Airrai Elementary School	Aileen Mikel	Principal
12.	Aimeliik Elem School	Mashon Mongami	Principal
13.	Ibobang Elementary School	Johnson Emesiochl	Principal
14.	Ibobang High School	Bedebii Chiokai	Principal
		Rengiil Madalarak	Palauan Teacher
		David Ngirakesau	Palauan Teacher
15.	Ngaremlengui Elem School	Patricial Franbz	Principal
16.	Ngardmau Elem School	Ananias Ngiraiwet	Principal
17.	Ngarchelong Elem School	Pamela Swei	Principal
18.	Ngaraard Elem School	John Ngiratiou	Principal
19.	Ngiwal/Melekeok/Ngchesar	Magaria Tellei	Principals
		Wilhelm Recheluul	
		Gregorio Ngirmang	
20.	Kayangel Elem School	Miriam Watts	Principal
21.	Peleliu Elem School	Ngereblunt Arurang	Principal
22.	Angaur Elem School	Tiffany Kasiano	Principal

23.	Romana Anastacio	Governor, Ngchesar State
24.	Sabino Anasacio	Former Minister of State, former Senator, Delegat
25.	Willy Wally	Outreach Coordinator, PCC
26.	Masa-Aki Emesiochl	Minister of Education, MOE
27.	Peter Elechuus	Former educator, MOE
28.	Inacio Sadang	Pastor and elder of Ngiwal State
29.	Masaharu Tmodrang	Linguist/former educator
30.	Isabella Dokdok	Teacher, retired

As we interviewed with these teachers, school administrators, private citizens, village elders, or students we always try to find answers to the following questions:

- Is the current orthography and grammar used in schools meeting our goals in forming a strong foundation in preserving our language?
- What and how is the actual implementation of this concept in the classroom?
- Is it implemented according to the curriculum framework? Are we meeting the key areas of the framework?
- Are the students having any difficulty with this concept?
- Are there any resistance to this Palauan grammar and orthography being used?
- How do people feel if we are to officially adopt this orthography and grammar concept?

Through all our interviews and field research, most of the respondents made clear their resounding support in adopting the Palauan grammar and orthography as described and presented by the work of Dr. Lewis S. Josephs and Mr. Masa-Aki N. Emesiochl as referenced in their published books; ***Palauan Grammar Reference***, ***Handbook on Palauan Grammar Volume* I & II**, and the ***New Palauan-English Dictionary***. Everyone also understands, as with most linguists and lexicologists, that languages evolve with changing times. Revision, expansion, and editing are a natural fact of the ever changing language itself.

Our research also showed that everyone want to find ways to promote a stronger usage of Palauan language in our community. This is especially true considering the ever increasing use of English as a language of choice by our younger generation. We see it every day when our kids speak more English than they do their own.

All the respondents agree that we ought to do something. Everyone knows that if we can raise awareness and knowledge of our own language, we would see a very rich and complete language, one that we can all be very proud of, and one that we can use to fully express ourselves. Many suggest changes and amendments in areas of curriculum as a way to promote and encourage learning and usage of our language. Also, publication of more fun materials, updating existing materials, more training of our teachers of Palauan language, and commitment of more resources to this endeavor. The Commission fully agrees to all of the suggestions above. We are committed to address and find solutions to these issues.

After completing our work on Palauan grammar and orthography, we can move on to the next phase of our mission. Moving forward, our remaining objectives are:

1. To establish additional rules and uniformity to our official guidelines when adopting new words and loanwords into our lexicon. This grammar and orthography by Mr. Josephs and Mr. Emesiochl have most of the basic rules for dealing with borrowed words. There just needs to be a set of uniform procedures by which words are added to our vocabulary.

2. Make recommendations, when necessary, for changes in methods and content to our curriculum for implementation in classrooms.

3. Prepare and publish, or assist in preparation and publication of dictionaries, books on grammar and usage, and other works on Palauan language.

4. Find ways to preserve and encourage use of Palauan language in our schools and community and report the findings to the Olbiil Era Kelulau and the President.

CONCLUSION

When we started out on our mandate, it was imperative that our first task was to determine a standard system of proper grammar and spelling of Palauan words. We were faced with two obvious options. The **first option was to start from the beginning**; acquire expert linguists, conduct extensive study and research, conduct tests on different models and theories giving enough length of time (in years) to see results of these different models and concepts, solicit enough resources to cover huge expenses, and then decide on a preferred concept and adopt it and produce materials and expertise to implement i

Fortunately we had **a second option**; an existing defined system of grammar and orthography that is being taught in schools presently, and has for over thirty (30) years. It has been studied, researched, and tested. We can see concrete results in form of actual people applying the concept in schools and at home. The history of this existing grammar and orthography goes back to 1940's and beyond. Extensive expert studies, researches, time, and money have been invested in it. It was obvious that our focus should be on this new grammar and orthography.

Our main concern is; "What kind of resistance will this new grammar and orthography face?" When this concept was first introduced in mid-1970's after it was compiled, it ran into calls for more "discussions" and education. Not because people did not like it per se but because it was new and many people did not understand it. Our research shows that, today the resistance is small to none. Majority of respondents, old and young, support the adoption of this existing orthography and Palauan grammar. Today, with this new system, kids read and write fluently, and at a much faster rate than before. Because, now there is a system, so we can predict (assume) words and thus enabling us to read a lot faster, similar to that of reading in English. Even older respondents who have yet to grasp the concept still support the use of it because they understand the importance of having a standardized system of Palauan grammar and spelling. We encounter words like "let's not re-invent the wheel', "let's take that first step". We found out from our research that most people understand that this system is a long way from being complete. Our work had just begun.

The members of the Palau Language Commission believe it have done the necessary work, studies, researches, observations, learning, listening, and discussions on the two options we had when we began this task. **TO** begin all over again anew in search of a Palauan grammar and orthography that meet our need, **OR** work with the already existed and used Palauan grammar and orthographical system as presented and defined by the works of Dr. Josephs and Mr. Emesiochl. We believe it is the latter.

The Palau Language Commission is satisfied and confident in its believe that the grammar and orthography system presented by **Dr. Lewis s. Josephs** and Mr. **Masa-Aki Emesiochl** best reflect, define, and convey our Palauan language without compromising our thoughts in the process. It is very detailed in scope, complex at times as it should, technical, and offers a very comprehensive description of Palauan grammar and orthography.

Therefore, we the members of the **Palau Language Commission**, are unanimous in our decision and desire now to adopt fully the concept and system of **Palauan grammar and orthography as presented by Dr. Lewis S. Josephs, his linguistic colleagues, and Mr. Masa-Aki Emesiochl in its entirety as specifically referenced in the three books listed below:**

1. **Palau Reference Grammar**; 1975; by Lewis s. Josephs
   With the assistance of: Masa-Aki Emesiochl
   Masaharu Tmodrang
   Helen Wilson.
   Editor: Donald Topping
   Social Sciences and Linguistics Institute
   University of Hawaii

2. **Handbook of Palauan Grammar, Volume I & II**; 1997 & 1999; by Lewis S. Josephs
   Handbook of Palauan Grammar-Teacher's Manual, Volume I & II; 1997 & 1999; by Lewis S. Josephs
   With the assistance of : Masa-Aki Emesiochl

   Bureau of Curriculum & Instruction
   Ministry of Education, Republic of Palau

3. **New Palauan-English Dictionary**; 1997, 1990; by Lewis S. Josephs
   Editor: Donald M. Topping
   University of Hawaii Press
   Social Science Research Institute
   University of Hawaii

THEREFORE, IN TESTIMONY OF OUR INTENT AND RESOLVE, WE THE MEMBERS OF THE PALAU LANGUAGE COMMISSION do hereby affix our signatures below on this ___11th_____ day of _____APRIL_____, 2012.

_____/s/_____
Noah Secharraimul, Chairman

_____/s/_____
Kazumoto Rengulbai, Member

_____/s/_____
Ignacia Oilouch Rengulbai, Vice Chairman

_____/s/_____
Debbie Tkel-Sbal, Member
Director of Curriculum & Instruction, MOE

_____/s/_____
Gregorio Ngirmang, Secretary/Treasurer

_____/s/_____
Rachel N. Ucherbelau, Member

_____/s/_____
Alfonso Uchel Megreos, Member

Certified by: _____/s/_____
Jonathan Masaichi, Staff-PLC

Recorded by: _____/s/_____
Hilda Aot Kloulechad, Staff-PLC