

**Association of Pacific Island Public Auditors
19th Annual Conference
Saipan, CNMI – 2008**

I. Background

The Association of Pacific Island Public Auditors (APIPA) held its 19th annual conference in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), July 14-18, 2008. The conference was hosted by the CNMI's Office of the Public Auditor (OPA). The Graduate School, USDA, provided training and logistical support to the conference through its *Pacific Islands Training Initiative (PITI)* program, giving conference participants the opportunity to receive up to 40 hours of continuing education units (CEUs). All courses were held at the World Resort on Saipan.

II. Participants

Two hundred total participants attended the 2008 APIPA conference, up from 111 who attended last year's conference in American Samoa. Last year's attendance was lower than in most recent years primarily because of the greater difficulty and expense of traveling to American Samoa for most potential participants.

Participants came from throughout the Pacific, including American Samoa, Chuuk, CNMI, Guam, Kosrae, Palau, Pohnpei, Marshall Islands, and Yap. In all, 1,202 course certificates were awarded for a total of 8,304 CEUs.

III. Instructors and Courses

Seven instructors led the training sessions: Dan Fitzgerald, Alan Goodman, Michael Johnson, Patricia Keehley, Stephen Morgan, Kevin O'Keefe, and Jeanne Yamamura. Sixteen courses were provided during the conference in four training tracks: Audit, Audit Supervisory, Basic Finance and Advanced Finance. While most classes were either 4-hour or 8-hour sessions, three were 12 hours long, and one was 20 hours in length. The instructors, course titles and number of participants attending each course are shown in the following table:

| Instructor | Course Title | Number of Students |
|--|--|---------------------------|
| Morgan | Emerging Issues in Government Auditing & Accounting | 200 |
| Goodman | Interviewing Techniques for Auditors | 22 |
| Goodman | Presentation Skills for Auditors | 31 |
| Morgan | Auditor Roles in Government Performance Measurement | 59 |
| Morgan | Key Yellow Book Performance Auditing Concepts | 73 |
| Morgan | Risk-based Performance Audit Project Planning | 42 |
| Morgan | 2007 Government Auditing General Standards & Peer Review | 47 |
| Goodman | Coaching & Counseling for Improved Auditor Performance | 23 |
| Yamamura | Everybody Loves Cash: Basic Cash Controls | 74 |
| Keehley | Best Practices of High Performing Finance Offices | 58 |
| Yamamura | Magical Mystery Tour: Unraveling the Year-End Close | 48 |
| Keehley | Managing for Continuous Improvements of Finance Operations | 72 |
| Yamamura | Fraud 101: Increasing Your Fraud Awareness | 91 |
| Johnson & Fitzgerald | Single Audit Update | 98 |
| O'Keefe | Topics in Investment Management | 85 |
| Goodman | Ethical Decision-Making for Auditors & Finance Officers | 179 |
| Total Number of Certificates Awarded: | | 1,202 |

IV. APIPA Executive Meeting

An APIPA Executive Meeting was held in the afternoon of July 17. The complete minutes of that meeting will be made available through the APIPA secretariat.

V. Notes and Observations

The APIPA website (<http://apipa2008.org>) was a key tool for planning, organizing and administering the conference. Complete course schedules were offered on the website, as well as online conference registration, course descriptions, and background information on selected instructors.

The staff of the CNMI Office of the Public Auditor devoted many hours of work to make the conference a success. Their efforts are greatly appreciated.