wanted to publish a regular newsletter. She had some problems. I think she might continue to produce that for the Micronesian community (indiscernible) possible (indiscernible) to publish information.

The next panelist is a person you all know, Dr. Hilda Heine. I was very disturbed by a presentation she had made in the college of -- no -- the Marshall Islands High School some years ago. It was supposed to go on the Pacific Islands Report.

She was speaking to high school graduates. And she said for the last seven years, there had been, like, just a few college graduates from the whole Marshall Islands as a nation. So the efforts of the community and the government is very slow in terms of producing Marshall Islands students who actually finish school and university.

So I'm grateful that she distinguished herself and now serves as an example for many of us, and also that she was (audience interruption) continues to work with us in various ways to encourage Marshallese and other Micronesians to proceed in college and finish their education.

So I think without further ado, let's hear from Dr. Hilda Heine.

Small Island Networks

BY DR. HILDA HEINE:

Thank you. Good morning, Richard. Thank you for that
I, in thinking about my role in talking about increasing effective communication, and I look at the program, I (indiscernible) it under school orientation. So I guess I'll start out by talking about PREL.

Most of you know about Pacific Resources Education -- that's where I officially work. And I unofficial work for SINET on my own time. But PREL, as you all know, is an educational organization that serves what is known as the American-affiliated Pacific. So that includes all the territories and the Freely Associated States.

And in terms of increasing effective communication, we do a number of things to increase communication, primarily in the area of education. And in working with Micro communities here in Hawai`i, we created a web site called Team -- I think it's still on the web site.

This is really (indiscernible) others at PREL, we work together to put out information about cultures of Micronesia online as a means to improve understanding and awareness of the cultural groups and (indiscernible) in Micronesia.

This was about maybe six or seven years ago that we did this Team web site. And it's still there, and we get a number of requests from different educators about educational materials and about culture information. And that's been very helpful for teachers, and that was the purpose of that, our web

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site. So it's increasing and providing information for
teachers.

Also over the years, PREL has also worked on various
materials that are in different languages. We created
audiotapes, stories that are in different languages that are on
audiotapes and share them with the education systems here.

These are stories from the islands. They're in both
English and, you know, one of the native languages. And they
have been used by teachers of (indiscernible) as a way of
increasing understanding in the sense of knowing what the
information is all about and understanding it.

We've also done a number of CD's with -- again, with
the stories from the different island groups. Way back we did
the palm CD, and I think it's still out there. But it's all
cultural groups that have been burned on to a CD and it's made
available again for teachers and as a means of insuring that
kids in school from the different island groups get to see their
languages and also get to hear it in materials that are
available to them.

So those are just some of the things that we try to --
of course, PREL has a web site that's available for educators
and other professionals interested in getting information about
various issues in education, from teacher quality to reading,
you know, and so on and so forth -- that they're all on the web

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site. It's www.prel.org. So that information is there for to
increase not only understanding, but communication.

I will now move on to a Small Island Networks. This
is a small nonprofit organization that we started about around
2000. This was when there was hardly any nonprofit organization
that was working with Micronesians, helping service providers
understand the different cultures. And we saw the need after
working at PREDL and helping schools to -- you know, with
translations as well as doing cultural awareness and increasing
the understanding of the different cultures.

Through my work at PREDL, it wasn't enough. So we said
we -- you know, there was a need to start a nonprofit
organization. Julie (indiscernible) and I cofounded the
organization. And since 2005, I think we've done close to 100
or so workshops. And this not just through educators, but also
to help nurses and doctors and to Hawai`i public safety
department, state of (indiscernible) programs social services,
courts and judges.

And as I said, this was in the early days before -- it
was preceding Micronesian Community Network and all the other
organizations that are currently taking on, you know, what is --
I mean, the -- the word of helping to increase understanding and
communication across the state and the service providers.

We tried to put together a web site, and we do have a
web site, and it's still there, www. SINET dot -- or
smallislandnetworks.org. And there are some information that we're trying to put up there, again for increasing understanding and communication.

In the future, we're looking to put more or to focus on training for interpreters, working in the area of trying to help with translations, also working on (indiscernible) materials for service providers as well as for Micronesians. So we've seen our role as kind of an intersection between island people as well as service providers so that we would connect the two as a (indiscernible) of seeking information.

So we're still working on doing that. Unfortunately, I am now back in the Marshall Islands and Julie's here. And I think we're trying to see how we could move things forward. But it's still a very viable organization. And it's -- as I said, we're looking to focus on print and web resources, to put up on the line, translated, and also doing training for interpreter and for people working in that area.

So I guess one final piece about Small Island Networks. We try to build capacities. At this time, a number of training for tutors that have worked in schools, some of the tutors have gone on to become educators in the schools, working with Micronesian kids.

So these are some of the things we tried to focus on, again, building capacities of Micronesians here to do more of the work that is needed, realizing that a familiar face, you
know, makes it all easier to communicate and to get things done.

So with those, I will stop here. Those are the information I wanted to share about the two organizations that I work with currently. Thank you.

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(Audience applause.)

MR. SALVADOR: Thank you very much, Hilda.

I wanted to say something about the inclusiveness of Micronesians on the panel. We were supposed to have the representative of the Micronesians United.

For those of you who don't know, here we have two main organizations that are Micronesian organizations. Micronesians United was formed much earlier in 1997, responding to issues of housing and healthcare and other stuff. And they saw their role as now more addressing those (indiscernible).

And so they've been in existence for some time.

And then, of course, as you heard earlier, in 2005, Micronesian Community Network was created. And then ever since, there's been a number of different women's groups and others created by various individuals who are working in their own communities.

So if you hear Micronesian Community Network and Micronesians United, Pastor Segal is a Chuukese pastor, pastor of the Mililani Baptist Church, Chuuk congregation, is the president of the Micronesians United. They are supposed to be