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MEDIA RELEASE

PNG ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION COMMISSION and FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATIONS AND INFRASTRUCTURE SIGN MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.

The Chief Commissioner of the PNG Accident Investigation Commission, Mr Hubert Namani, today announced that the AIC exchanged a *Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)* with the Department of Transportation, Communications and Infrastructure (TC&I) of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM).

Mr Namani said “the purpose of the MoU is to facilitate assistance and cooperation between the AIC and the TC&I in the exercise of our shared aviation safety investigation functions for the enhancement of aviation safety in our respective countries.”

He said “the MoU covers a range of investigation activities including shared resources and training opportunities.

“PNG and FSM are signatories to the *Convention on International Civil Aviation*. MoU’s are a fundamental tenet of ensuring States can work together to meet the aviation safety investigation obligations of *Annex 13* to the *Convention*. *Annex 13* sets out the *Standards and Recommended Practices* for conducting accident and incident investigations, and thereby standardise the approach to aviation aircraft accident and incident investigations.

“In signing this formal MoU Mr. Massy Halbert, Assistant Secretary TC&I assure the people of FSM and PNG that their safety is paramount whether they are travelling in FSM, PNG, or flying beyond our borders. Our respective Nations’ resources are finite, so it is important that small countries such as PNG and FSM share resources and cooperate in the interest of safety improvement.”

PNG Minister for Civil Aviation, Hon. Alfred Manase, MP said “I endorse and fully support this important MoU initiative and I know that Mr. Lukner Weilbacher, Secretary (Minister) TC&I shares with me this desire to cooperate with and assist each other in the common cause of aviation safety.”

Mr. Namani said “the MoU we have signed today was in draft form awaiting signing before the recent tragic accident involving the Air Niugini Boeing 737 on approach to Chuuk International Airport, FSM. The FSM and AIC investigators were on-site in Chuuk, working together within 23 hours of the accident. The readiness of the PNG AIC and the FSM TC&I to assist each other is clear evidence of the MoU at work even before it was signed.

“The AIC’s Flight Recorder Laboratory and trained investigators will continue to stand ready to work FSM TC&I when needed in all areas of investigation including training opportunities.”

Approved

Hubert Namani
Chief Commissioner