

The Dekada group, which is seeking improved working conditions for its members in the CNMI, raises issues that go far beyond the CNMI's borders. A recent UN report on migration notes that migration can keep populations from declining, stimulate the economy, and provide much-needed income for poor nations, or migration can be used as a tool for regulating labor supplies.

- Not that I wish to sound elitist, but the killing off, one by one, of the leading political figures in Iraq by insurgents does more than just take another life. It drains the gene pool. Eventually, it will leave the Iraqi all the poorer in that their best and brightest will have been lost, and what remains will be second best. Nor is this a situation that exists only in Iraq. It occurs wherever targeted killings, leader assassinations take place. A thought worth thinking about.

- To those who argue that it is inappropriate to talk of education as an industry, in that industries are expected to make a profit, and education is not, I think a distinction can be made between "formal" education, which should rightly focus on high standards of academic achievement, and technical and trade-type education institutions, where the focus tends to be on skill development. Of course, even such institutions should be held to standards. But in the for-profit environment in which they would presumably operate, if the training provided was not adequate, they would soon lose business in any case.</P>

Intelligent design

Judicial retention "at the general election immediately before the end of the initial term" - constitutional provision

CPA profit - Trib 4/27 p 5, MV 4/25 p 6, MV 4/28 p 5

PSS - and others - need to build accountability into funds granted by legislature - Trib 5/9 p 2

F. Atalig re need to stop bleeding local funds to meet fed obligations - what about reverse???

Trib 5/13

small scale venture: publish Sam's students' works

what are Chinese tourists going to do? Jap/ war sites not of interest

availability of info not necessarily an FOIA issue - but of who knows, and who is willing to share on Guam, see truck emitting black smoke, told to report it (PDN 4/26) True in CNMI?

Western Micronesia Chief Executive Summit, with Fed DOI Office of Interagency Affairs to speak - and Babauta did not attend. What a slam! Trib 4/23, p 3

government by cliff-hanging - CUC fuel payments, PSS teacher payments, HPMR renewal

Iraq war - technology keeps more wounded alive - though wounds may be terrible.....(clipping)

NMC accreditation satisfied by La Fiesta transfer - who accredits NMC gov't for acquisition?

Illegal dumping at PR dump shows need for transfer station

whatever happened to social eyesore beauty contest?

From Ed Klingsberg: Randy Fennel says law requires member of Treasury present at opening of

poker machines; metered NMC reduced cost in half! ; JoeTen opposes increase in minimum wage since it hires so many locals

punitive fee for littering not big enough to deter people from doing so

need for large meeting places when JoeTen library space gone

corporations not held responsible, held accountable since not considered person

war on terrorists being won; war on terrorism is not.

Give aid, education, to countries where immigrants coming from. If have it there, won't emigrate...from UN report on economic and social affairs

Two public hearings with low attendance - HPO and Tony P's project - how get community involved? Mother's clubs? Church? But then Lagoon use hrg well attended - Kathy gave it TLC!

New dock at San Antonio - would solve ferry problem - did I already mention?

Loren Sutton re bankruptcy filings - good advice! MV 4/19, p 7

Open airport to other vendors - magazines and books and newspapers (need to check!)

check out comment on double-dipping - what happened to that proposal? See Rita Inos' letter

Kagman watershed

Highway bill

Zoning priority - strip malls

sad that doctors who go into nursing deprive community of doctor services

would add, in addition to very limited tourism infrastructure, the failing local infrastructure generally--power of late, the constant beach pollution and lack of responsiveness (here and Guam) to federal threats of fines for maintaining a healthy community, water quality problems on both islands. Also, year after year, vandalism of property and purse snatchings, graffiti and litter, show (at best) no improvement in solving the problem.

Also, the hotels are now entering the maintenance upkeep stages of their lives (note the upgrades and improvements being made); the newness factor gone. The challenges of dealing with ever-changing local laws and regulations re: labor and other threats (I think the attempt to take back the Nikko by Ted Mitchell left a big imprint on Japanese investment/economic observers as JAL/Nikko was prepared to implode the hotel before they left if forced out of their multi-year agreement) has made this a tough place for someone to sensibly try and get something started.

The days of venture (risk) capital are gone for Japan. There aren't too many Willie (deep pockets) Tan's around who have the money to put up now, and even if things

continue to slide, or crash, he will own a major chunk of the island when things start to turn around some day. Plus, he is getting things on the cheap these days. Also, he has long known the ways of the island, which buttons to push, which local people to lobby, his local staff being well-paid to protect his interests.

The Chamber and others (existing businesses talking about CDA's QC) say not enough attention paid on longtime investment folks, keeping them happy. True, from my observation point. They are taken for granted. Frank points out that the hotels are changing hands; new buyers. But the sale price has to represent a major loss.

The cliff-like falloff in new business started with the advent of the \$100,000 security deposit. But it took years for its cumulative effect to take hold. And, finally, just recently, has it been done away with.

The CNMI is surely its own worst enemy when it comes to understanding the economic world. Bill Stewart has said for years, not for publication, 'the CNMI has done wrong just about everything possible, to undermine its own economic future.'

I can't believe someone in MVA isn't meeting with airline executives, hotel executives, and tour executives every week. Airlines, hotels, and tour companies are the life blood of our tourist industry. Somebody should be on top of this at all times. (Bud)

It would be irresponsible to pretend that I have any answers. But one can speculate. One of the tertiary reasons could very well be the increase pressures to be put on the tourism industry with a closure and downsizing of the garment industry. Any hotel manager who has been here any time at all would probably realize that far more pressures is going to put on the industry to make up for the losses in tax revenues. This at a time where media challenges of increased fuel costs and airline transportation is tempting JAL to seek greener pastures.. Combine that with the somewhat overenthusiastic and optimistic projections about the benefits of the new Chinese tourism market could have raise alarm bells within the Japanese community. I would also add that the Commonwealth has done very little to improve the tourism infrastructure in the past 20 years. This is leading more and more tourist to select more aggressively marketed destinations. Unfortunately, we have consistently been convinced that our proximity and historical ties with Japan would guarantee a constant market. No matter what happens in the rest of the world. (Sam)