

ATTITUDES OF LONG-TERM RESIDENTS OF GUAM
TOWARD IMMIGRANTS
FROM THE
FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA
AND THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

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Seyda Turk Smith

**Micronesian Language Institute, University of Guam
Mangilao, Guam 96923 • (671)734-0140 • FAX (671) 734-0143**

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Two studies investigated the reactions of long-term residents of Guam to immigration and immigrants from the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) as a result of the implementation of the Compact of Free Association (CFA) signed between these two countries and the United States. The first study involved 74 in-depth interviews with informants discussing the impact of the Compact, their attitudes towards the Compact, and their assessment of changes following the implementation of the Compact. The second study gathered the views of a stratified random sample of 503 Guam residents interviewed by telephone. Their assessments of the Compact impact, and attitudes toward the Immigrants were investigated by open and closed-ended questions. They were also asked about their expectations of the Government of Guam and the Federal Government of the United States concerning the integration of the immigrant population into Guam life. Both studies confirmed that the Compact of Free Association had a major impact on Guam. Respondents provided helpful suggestions to ease the adaptation of the Immigrants to the culture and life on Guam, and to improve relations with the Immigrants.

The Compact of Free Association (CFA), signed in 1986 between the United States and the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, gave free entry to the citizens of those two Micronesian nations to the United States and to all U.S. territories. Following the compact, CFA citizens started to migrate to Guam, taking advantage of the short distance between their home countries

Micronesian Language Institute, University of Guam

and Guam. Guam, with its prospering economic conditions and job vacancies exceeding the available work force on the Island, became an attractive place for outsiders to come and work. FSM citizens, in large numbers, and Marshall Islanders, in fewer numbers took advantage of these conditions. The 1990 U.S. Census records showed that the FSM population doubled each year during the 1988-1990 period, jumping from 500 in 1988 to 2,000 in 1990 (Rubinstein and Levin, in press). The latest Census records of the Micronesian population give much higher figures, reaching 4,000 in 1992 (Census of Micronesians on Guam, Rubinstein and Levin, in progress).

This migration has consequences for the home states of the Immigrants, as well as the long-term residents of Guam¹ who have been affected by the changes after the implementation of the Compact of Free Association in the years following 1986. To our knowledge, the impact of the Compact on the people of Guam and their reactions to the changes following the flood of CFA citizens to Guam have not been studied and documented up to this point. It is the purpose of this paper to report the studies conducted to investigate the experiences, impressions, and attitudes of long-term residents of Guam to immigrants from the CFA states, and also to discuss the long-term residents' perceptions about the impact of the Compact of Free Association. The report also summarizes residents' viewpoints regarding the actions that they feel the local Government of Guam and the Federal Government of the United States should take to help the adjustment of Guam to the immigration following the Compact.

Two studies were conducted to understand the reactions of long-term residents of Guam towards Compact-related immigrants. Study 1 was an in-depth analysis of the residents with a variety of backgrounds, who are in close contact with the CFA citizens as neighbors, co-workers, or employers. Study 2 was a phone survey of 503 Guam residents who have lived on Guam for at least 5 years and were chosen from 19 villages with a stratified random sampling which allows the representation of villages in numbers that are proportional to each villages' representation in the total Guam population.

¹ Within the text, the long-term residents of Guam will sometimes be called *long term residents* or *residents*, and the citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of Marshall Islands living and working on Guam will be called *immigrants*.