

SUMMARY

The FSM National Census Program

The 1987 population census in Yap is the first one taken by a local office since the Japanese administration ended in 1945. During the period of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (TTP), the US Bureau of the Census was delegated the Responsibility of census taking. With the formation of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) in 1979, the responsibility of census taking became an internal one. Hence, the present census was conducted as part of a National Census Program by the FSM Office of Planning and Statistics in collaboration with the office of Planning and Budget in Yap.

The present analysis of the 1987 Yap State census is not a comprehensive one. Due to time constraints there is no reference to mortality and fertility work carried out by anthropologists. Furthermore, several other sources of information concerning the past population situation in Yap have not been incorporated into the present study. This is especially true of the censuses taken during the Japanese administration which lasted from about 1914 to 1945. The present analysis, by a large, focuses on estimating mortality and fertility from the 1987 census. There is a descriptive analysis of the census tabulations on education, economic activity and socioeconomic status. The report is essentially of a preliminary nature, and is intended to give planners and administrators new population data and results for uses in their work. It should be noted, however, that vital registration in the TTPI was incomplete and that it is dubious to which extent historical data could be of use in a retrospective analysis of mortality and fertility. Nevertheless, an analysis incorporating the old Japanese censuses and the ones taken during the TTPI period is warranted at least for historical reasons.