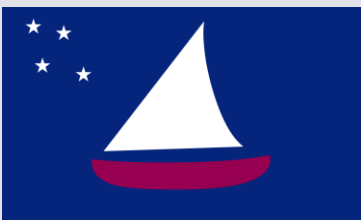


Sonsorol State

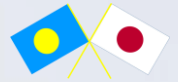
“DONGOSARO”



Sonsorol State consists of four islands: Sonsorol, Fanna, Pulo Ana, and Merir, located approximately 300 km southwest of Koror State and reachable by boat. The size of the main island, Sonsorol, is 1.3 km² and known for its untouched natural beauty with high biodiversity and unique marine ecosystems.



The People of Sonsorol



Embassy of Japan in Palau



©Peace Winds Japan

The people of Sonsorol are known to be friendly and hospitable. They speak their own language, “Sonsorolese,” and practice their own traditions, such as their men’s dance and chants like *Gapping* and *Gasiwesiw*. These play an important role in preserving their cultural identity.



Teacher Jaimee Nestor teaching the girls how to weave ball-rice.



SES Students showing their poster thanking Scripps Institution of Oceanography for their donation of Wi-Fi.



Mrs. Francisca Bemar is weaving coconut palm fond for a thatch roof.



Boys hanging out at the channel; Pases



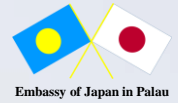
Older women teaching young ladies how to make bilum.



Locals loading and unloading the boat at the channel; Pases.



The Nature of Sonsorol



Sonsorol Island has an average elevation of 12 meters. 48% of the island is covered by dense, lush canopies of broadleaf trees, making it ideal for a scenic nature walk. The island has 4 vegetation zones, sandy beach, forest, grassland and rocky terrain. The compact yet varied landscape creates a rich habitat for a wide range of animals.



Land crab; "lahum" on the beach



Calophyllum inophyllum;
Alexandrian Laurel Tree:
Fitou at Niyerimalemaho



Faremau (Chief's meeting place); with the Cross
in the background



On the beach, Matatao; facing south
during sunset



Sunrise at Woribuhuya: the southern
tip of Sonsorol Island



Matatao view from the beach; at low tide



Japanese Memorial Monument built in October 1974.

Sonsorol has many historical sites. Before WWII, the Japanese came to Sonsorol to mine phosphate and traded goods, such as sea cucumber and bonito flakes (katsuo-bushi) and left when WWII started. Afterwards, Japanese soldiers came to the island and built defense fortifications, which were added to the Palau Register of Historic Places on March 20, 2020.



Power Generator of tugboat "Tsubaki" from phosphate mining era



Water Well built during the Japanese era and still used as a water tank by residents



Japanese Pier built for transporting phosphate

Japanese Defense Fortification

Japanese Defense Fortification (B:SU - 3:1)

Mere Japanese Defense Fortification Site Number B:SU-3:1 Feature 1 ma Feature 32 ma Feature 33 e bwarango pulaye hapitehiri ibetel a Cherechar (Palau Register of Historic Places) ifiri mo March 30, 2020. Mere e tarapar nifar ba dewo ibetel a Cherechar ma retiperi Panou, nga e tarapar nifar ifiri faruweri Dongosaro ma ifili sawori faruweri.

Ewol mena matamowari hanabahi (Feature 1), mere imwari matarahi hale dewo ra imwari bwedi. Rapiri imwaer na fidibuhoye feet kameseri mena dilhe hatahanyie. E tawol ungar. Mere ra emire ma yefangiri wotawot ma matarapiye hale fari yalowor. Faduri wori yaurung mena titiri imwaer ra la hori cement ba hapour. Tahiyatari imwaer na ebe hora fau feet, ng e lawou ramaranar na raniyeri matari bwedi layero e tarawou retteri. Mere imwaer ra e suyeri maho nga e pipipi fatoho ma siriheti ra tahuniye.

Marahara sanapari imwari bwedi hale imwari matarahi ifiri mo haluwoweri mauri faruweri yalamat e moudutengi dewa marahara pitchiri fauweri imwari matarahi ma wori faruweri Dongosaro. E hamatashi dewa yael fietini imwahar ba etawoli pitchiri fietini imwaer na eweya mena cement ina siforu. Mere sapir lada boko faduri wori yaurung ma sifoni klason ba hapouri fadu hara edamori mahar eda hapouu eda weya cement. Mere lepahual sapir eda imwari dewa imwahar ma ifili la Meriken. E hamatashi dewa yael hukane.

Tia el olsechall el Japanese Defense Fortification el Site Number B:SU-3:1 Feature 1 me a dirrek el Feature 32 me a Feature 33 a siliseb er a omsengelel a klalo er a ibetel a Cherechar (Palau Register of Historic Places) er se er a March 30, 2020. Tia el olsechall a ta er a mekroon el ibetel a cherechar er a belau, el kimal klou a siliseb el olsechall el mo er a rechad me a belau er a Sonsorol.

Tia el olsechall a ngar er ngii a kot el ochotall (Feature 1), ng eutal me a lechub e ng bili a boes el bekord el euid el durt el sak a klungel el meliuekl (Dimension) el di teleu a bebul a nga er a diluches er a basso el bili a boes a deueraki a teletelel e selment el obengkel a bad el chei. Ng bekord el eua el sak a telongekel e ngar er ngii a eri el belabedel el bili a medal a boes el di mo bedul a daob. Tia el ochotall a dirk el ungel e betok a mekerekere el dello-mel me a kerrekare el meliuekl er ngii.

Aika el bili a meklou el boes malechub e ng eutal er a ongeru el meklomad er a belauachad a ileaki e ngodech el teleuel er a klekodall a lulauusbech el meketek a eutal er a belau er a Sungesol. Tia furor a mile chetuekl le ng dimlak a klekodall er a onseketek el bli el uia smeni me a deel. Ng mlo uchul e te uluusbech a bad el chei me a deel el mle rolet a mekerekere el kora ksia el mo meliuech aika el bad el chei el bla le cherad me ng kora smeni. Tui-kid el klasechub a mlo uchul e aika el eutal a mile meringel el meues er a rechad er a merikel.

In recognition of its significance, Japanese Defense Fortification site number B:SU-3:1 Feature 1 along with Feature 32 and Feature 33 has been listed in the Palau Register of Historic Places on March 30, 2020. Through preservation, study, and interpretation, the site can serve to educate future generations concerning the historical and cultural heritage of the Palauan people and Sonsorol State.

This World War II Historic Reman known as feature 1 has a dimension of 3.70 meters x 255 meters. It is a Japanese open position located north of the residential area and right along the shoreline. The feature has a U-shape wall made of coral rocks re-enforced with concrete. It has an elevation of approximately one meter with two firing slits facing the water. It is still in good condition and surrounded with small trees and shrubs.

These Japanese Defense Fortifications are significant with unique methods and materials used in its construction. Prior to the invasion of the islands of Palau especially Peleliu by U.S forces in 1944, the Japanese military began an intensive program of fortification construction on the island of Sonsorol. This program was severely disadvantaged by the lack of construction materials especially cement and reinforcing steel. As a result, Japanese construction engineer found it necessary to substitute materials and modify design plans. Coral rocks were used in place of poured concrete and railroad tracks were used in place of manufactured reinforcing rods. The use of these substitute materials, together with clever placement utilizing natural features, resulted in a functional defense position which was nearly invisible to aerial and ship reconnaissance.

