



## Permanent Mission of the Federated States of Micronesia to the UN

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### Micronesia and Papua New Guinea sign amendment to the Air Transport Agreement

September 21, 2017 (New York) – Direct flights to Japan from the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) could be coming soon.



Today Secretary of Foreign Affairs Lorin S. Robert signed an amendment to the Air Transport Agreement between FSM and Papua New Guinea (PNG) that will allow Air Niugini to extend its current air service from FSM in order to carry passengers and cargo between FSM and Japan.

PNG Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Rimbink Pato signed the agreement on behalf of the PNG government in a ceremony hosted by the PNG Mission to the United Nations. After the signing, both Secretary Robert and Minister Pato made brief remarks welcoming the extension of air services and the strengthening of the bilateral relationship between FSM and PNG.

Secretary Robert welcomed the extension of air service to Japan and expressed gratitude to PNG for helping to bring together the entire Pacific by establishing direct flights between numerous islands. Minister Pato observed that travel between FSM and PNG had strengthened people-to-people contact, and he highlighted the potential for associated growth and investment in the oceans and fisheries sector.

Air Niugini commenced regular flights to Pohnpei and Chuuk from PNG in December 2016, operating twice a week every Wednesday and Saturday. The new flight extensions to Japan have yet to be scheduled, so it is not yet known if they will necessitate any changes to the current flight schedule between FSM and PNG.