



## OFFICE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY

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### **Guam OPA Participates in 34<sup>th</sup> APIPA Conference in the Marshall Islands** *First In-Person Conference Since 2019 Held in Majuro*

Hagåtña, Guam – Public Auditor Benjamin J.F. Cruz and Supervising Accountability Auditor Vincent Duenas were among the participants in the 34<sup>th</sup> Association of Pacific Island Public Auditors (APIPA) Conference held in Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) from August 28 to September 1, 2023. The theme of this year’s conference was “Shining a Light on Public Accountability.” This was the first in-person conference since it was held in Guam in 2019.

The one-week conference provided a wide range of courses with relevant topics on Audit, Audit Supervisory, Finance, and Advance Finance and Management and aimed to strengthen and enhance valuable skills each professional needs in today’s organization.

This year’s APIPA Conference brought together 396 auditors, accountants, and finance officers throughout the Pacific including American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), the Federated State of Micronesia (FSM), Guam, Samoa, Pohnpei, Chuuk, Kosrae, RMI, Yap, and Palau. The 35<sup>th</sup> APIPA Conference will be hosted by Palau in 2024.



**34<sup>th</sup> APIPA Conference:** Guam OPA Supervising Accountability Auditor Vincent Duenas and Public Auditor Benjamin J.F. Cruz at the APIPA Opening Plenary Session

*“We offer our congratulations to RMI Auditor-General Junior Patrick and his staff for a successful hosting of this year’s 34<sup>th</sup> APIPA Conference. This was the first in-person conference since Guam last hosted in 2019 due to the pandemic and it looks like the RMI team didn’t skip a beat in being gracious hosts. We also offer our appreciation to the Department of Interior Office of Insular Affairs and Graduate School, in particular Jason Aubuchon, Drummond Kahn, Monique Wedderburn, Ciara Santiago, and all the instructors, for all their financial and technical contributions to the success of this conference,”* remarked Cruz.



### **APIPA Principals at the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual APIPA Conference in Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands**

Left to Right: Guam Public Auditor Benjamin J.F. Cruz, FSM National Public Auditor Haser Hainrick, American Samoa Acting Territorial Auditor Morina Jo Faasisila, Palau Public Auditor Nino Tewid, Pohnpei State Public Auditor Ihlen Joseph, Yap State Public Auditor Bryan Dabugsiy, RMI Auditor-General Junior Patrick, Chuuk State Auditor Manny San Jose, CNMI Audit Supervisor Wilma Atalig-Fejeran, and Samoa Assistant Controller & Auditor General Terence Sua.