

Village survival discussed at Chevak meeting

The future survival of village corporations was the main topic up for consideration at a village corporation president's seminar in Chevak Aug. 13 and 14. Sponsored by AVCP, Inc. and Calista Corporation, the presidents had a chance to consider the roles of various profit and non-profit corporations, as they were explained to those in attendance.

Survival of villages is on the line, and ultimately, through the fate of village corporations, the land won back through the Claims Act. Members discussed the limitations of the

Village corporations in terms of finances, investment potential and room for growth.

Merger, in its various forms, was discussed in detail. Other alternatives, such as management corporations and joint ventures were also considered, and all agreed on the need to explore and consider the pros and cons of each to assess which would be the most workable for all concerned.

Collectively, the merger would give a broader economic base, politico-socio-economic clout, and opens investment capabilities nationally as well as internationally.

Addressing the conference, Calista president Oscar Kawagley explained: "a merger does not mean that the corporation has to surrender or commit all of its assets to the merger, but may merge for a specific purpose only. I think it would be fallacious and myopic to think in terms of investments only in our region when others exist elsewhere with a high margin of return. I am not saying dispense with the idea of developing our region, but let us not limit our horizon. These concepts need our careful consideration for our future and for the future generations to come."