

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 144

Establishing a Technical Working Group on the Coral Reef Research Center Project

WHEREAS, generations of Palauans have been sustained by the bounty of our surrounding lagoon and coral reefs; and

WHEREAS, the cultural heritage of Palau is greatly influenced by the ever-present interaction of our people and the surrounding sea; and

WHEREAS, Palau being a newly independent nation seeking long-term economic stability, we must formulate strong policies and sound practices to preserve and protect the sustain-ability of our coral reefs and other marine resources, our livelihood, and the emerging tourism industry; and

WHEREAS, a coral reef research center would provide immeasurable support for our efforts to rehabilitate, maintain and conserve Palau's fragile reef eco-system; and

WHEREAS, such a center would serve as an information processing center for a global network of individuals and organizations concerned with eco-tourism and marine life study, as well as being an ideal research base for the preservation of other reef systems the world over; and

WHEREAS, under Common Agenda, Japan and the U.S. are considering to help the UNESCO/Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) in developing a Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN), which has not been so far materialized; and

WHEREAS, in this connection, the Government of Japan proposes to build and equip a center for coral reef research in the Asia-Pacific region and considers Palau to be the most suitable country for establishing such a center;

NOW, THEREFORE, by the authority vested in me as President of the Republic, pursuant to the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Palau, a Coral Reef Research Center Project (CRRCP) Technical Working Group is hereby officially created to draft a Concept Paper for the Republic of Palau to present to the Japanese Government Design Team during their visit to Palau sometime in September 1995.

The Vice President/Minister of Administration for the Republic of Palau is hereby designated to chair the CRRCP Technical Working Group, which shall consist of representatives from the following:

1. Ministry of Resources and Development
2. Ministry of State
3. Ministry of Education
4. Ministry of Commerce and Trade

5. Environmental Quality Protection Board (EQPB)
6. Palau Community College
7. Palau Visitors Authority
8. Palau Fishing Authority

Participation is additionally requested of representatives of the following:

1. The Senate, OEK
2. The House of Delegates, OEK
3. Koror State Government
4. Palau Federation of Fishermen Association
5. Palau Boaters Association
6. Palau Sports Fishing Association
7. Palau Conservation Society
8. Chamber of Commerce

The CRRCP Technical Working Group should seek the input of representatives from such organizations as the United States State Department, South Pacific Regional Environmental Programme, the Nature Conservancy, the University of Guam Marine Laboratory, and the University of Hawaii Center for Tropical and Subtropical Aqua-culture, among others.

The CRRCP Technical Working Group's primary task is to develop a mission statement for the proposed coral reef research center and to propose the center's management and operational structure. The Concept Paper should address the following:

1. Background of the need for such a center;
2. Justification for locating the center in Palau;
3. The formal name for the center;
4. Program priorities;
5. The relationship of the center to existing education, conservation, recreation, etc. programs in Palau and the region;
6. Economic and other benefits to the Republic of Palau, such as services, information, etc.;
7. Specific location of the center;
8. Design/capacity of physical structure;
9. Budgetary needs and sources of funding.

The Vice President is requested to hold the first meeting of the CRRCP Technical

Working Group as soon as possible. The Technical Working Groups' final report and Concept Paper should be submitted to the President no later than September 15, 1995.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunder set my hand and affixed my official seal this 18th day of August, 1995, the State of Koror, Republic of Palau.

Kuniwo Nakamura
President
Republic of Palau