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# MESSAGE BY MEMBERS OF COM

**14 DECEMBER 2018**

**DUSIT THANI MANILA, PHILIPPINES**

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**Deputy Minister of Energy, Science, Technology, Environment**

**and Climate Change Malaysia**

Excellences’, Senior Officials, Representatives from the Development Partners, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. Allow me to take this opportunity in thanking the Government of Philippines for hosting this Ministerial Meeting. On behalf of my delegation and myself, I would like to thank you for the wonderful hospitality extended to us as well as the excellent organization of the meeting.
2. I would also like to thank the Regional Secretariat for the excellent

documentation prepared for this meeting as well as facilitating logistic arrangements.

Distinguished Delegates,

1. Covering only 1.6% of global oceanic area, the Coral Triangle hosts 76% of all known coral species, 37% of all known coral reef fish species, and 53% of the worlds' largest tuna fishery. Moreover, the biogeographical conditions within the Coral Triangle may also enable the region to maintain its exceptional productivity in the face of future impacts of climate change, making it potentially the world's most important refuge for marine life. This will augur well for sustainable management of marine resources and knowledge-based ocean governance. The CTI area also provides ecosystem services that indirectly fuels the economy and the well-being of the region.
2. The CTI is important not only for its biodiversity but also important for communities who depend on this ecosystem for their livelihood. The CTI region and its unique biodiversity has also infused the culture and heritage of the people.

Distinguished Delegates,

1. Being in Coral Triangle Initiative would allow the implementation of projects funded by government agencies, partners, NGO’s and offering professional opinion on vitally important topics related to marine ecosystem.
2. One of the significant project implemented related to CTI RPOA is GIZ Sulu Sulawesi Seascape Project involving Malaysia, Philippines and Indonesia. The project was officially concluded recently. The project demonstrates a good transboundary collaboration between the countries. Complementation of activities such as fieldwork with development partners helped in sharing cost, division of labour, coordination tasks and improved the efficiency in project implementation.

Distinguished Delegates,

1. In recognizing the importance of the Coral Triangle, Malaysia is delighted to inform that we have indulged in numerous efforts in managing the marine biodiversity of Malaysian waters. Out of 126 actions listed under the Malaysia Plan of Action on Coral Tringle Initiatives, 82% of the actions have been implemented or in the process of being implemented. This statistics demonstrates Malaysia’s commitment towards CTI and the larger global agenda to conserve biodiversity.
2. Malaysia is very committed to ensuring that our marine ecosystem remains healthy so that this rich biodiversity can be enjoyed in perpetuity and sustainably utilized for wealth creation. This was further proven when the Tun Mustapha Marine Park was gazette under the Sabah Parks Enactment, in 2016.
3. This gazette demonstrates Malaysia’s commitment to the Convention of Biological Diversity, under the United Nations Environment Program to protect at least 10% of the marine and coastal area can be achieved by 2020.
4. As we look forward to strong global action on sustainable development agenda for marine science, let us discuss new opportunities in science and technology in making an important contribution to each nation-state’s economy, culture of coastal communities and sustainable natural resources. It is my hope, in unity; we call for increased financial resources to facilitate transfer of knowledge and technology.
5. The CTI is now entering its tenth year and Malaysia hopes that the governance would be strengthen, the revised RPOA will be CT6 driven, the RS be streamlined for efficiency and cost effectiveness and a mechanism developed to attract global donors. This is important especially now when we are revising the RPOA and we hope the new RPOA will be focused and complemented with a clear resource mobilization strategy.
6. Finally, I would like to reassure you of Malaysia’s continued support for the Coral Triangle Initiatives (CTI) and we look forward to a fruitful deliberation at this meeting.

Thank you, and God Bless.

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