

ITMEMS 3 COZUMEL DECLARATION

LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEADERS' STATEMENT

Local Governments hold the key to the future of coral reefs and other tropical marine ecosystems. Greenhouse gas emissions, land based sources of marine pollution, unsustainable coastal development, overfishing and destructive fishing are local problems that impact at the global level. Healthy coral reefs are a beautiful indicator of healthy coastal and marine ecosystems and an increasingly valuable natural resource. The economic, social and cultural futures of people of tropical coasts and islands are linked to the health of coral reefs.

Local Government is on the front line of the issues that directly affect the future of coral reefs and associated ecosystems. Many local governments face huge and constantly changing challenges in providing for sustainability – meeting the needs of the present without compromising the needs of the future.

We are grateful for the opportunity provided for us to engage with the expertise of the coral reef management and scientific community through participation in the program of the Third International Tropical Marine Ecosystems Management Symposium.

We have identified 6 major issues that should be addressed to develop the partnership between the global coral reef management community and local government

EMPOWERMENT

We call upon the management and scientific community to support the empowerment and resourcing of local governments to manage tropical marine ecosystems.

NETWORKS

We call upon the management community to work with local government and community networks to develop informed partnerships to address the management of tropical marine ecosystems.

CAPACITY BUILDING

We call upon the management community to work with local government to develop practical technical capacity at the local level to address marine ecosystem issues.

KNOWLEDGE AND COMMUNICATION

We call upon researchers to communicate current research information in a manner that addresses the needs of local government

POLITICAL WILL

We call upon the management community to work with local government to build the political will to meet the challenges of managing tropical marine ecosystems.

RECOGNITION OF ACHIEVEMENT

We encourage the management community to publicly recognize the achievements of local government in sustainable management of marine resources.

Gustavo Ortega Joaquin	Mayor, Island of Cozumel, Mexico
Mahmoud Juma Issa	Mayor, Zanzibar Municipal Council, Tanzania
Ann Bunnell	Deputy Mayor, Townsville, Queensland, Australia
Lucilo Bayron	Vice Mayor, Puerto Princesa City, Philippines
Teariki Matenga	Mayor, Tukitumea, Rarotonga, Cook Islands
Hermani Braganza	Mayor, City of Alaminos, Pangasinan, Philippines
Jeremy Harris	Former Mayor, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA

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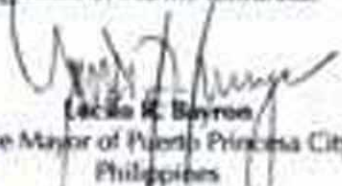
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 Mayor of Takitoniya, Raotonga
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Joseph Jerome Harris
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 Hawaii, USA


Gustavo Ortega Guajarin
 Mayor of the Island of Cozumel
 Mexico