

November 19, 2019

H.E. Bernard Fautrier
Minister Plenipotentiary,
Special Adviser to the Prime
Minister on sustainable
development issues
Principality of Monaco

Margaret Johnson
General Manager – Reef
Strategy, Great Barrier Reef
Marine Park Authority
Australia

H.E. Madam Susi Pudjiasruti
Minister of Marine Affairs and
Fisheries
Indonesia

Dear ICRI Secretariat:

Please accept this letter as a formal application for membership of Mote Marine Laboratory (Mote) in the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI).

Mote is an independent, nonprofit marine research and science education institution with six campuses in Florida and over 20 diverse research programs conducting research with partner institutions around the world. Coral reefs are a significant focus for many of our research and science education programs in the U.S., wider Caribbean, Pacific Islands, Southeast Asia and Middle East. Founded in 1955, Mote remains one of the few completely independent global marine research institutions of our size and impact in the world, and is fully supportive of the ICRI Continuing Call to Action and the Framework for Action.

Mote scientists have a long history of direct and abiding interest in the well-being of coral reefs and associated ecosystems, as well as demonstrated leadership in protecting coral reef ecosystems through significant national, regional, or global coral reef programs or interests. For instance, I served as one of the original co-Chairs for the U.S. Coral Reef Initiative in 1994 (Crosby *et al.*, 1995), the Manager and co-Principal Investigator for the Red Sea Marine Peace Park Cooperative Research, Monitoring and Management Program (Crosby *et al.*, 1999; 2000; 2002), and co-authored an op-ed in a national newspaper with U.S. Senator Marco Rubio on the importance of saving coral reefs (Crosby and Rubio, 2018). In 2017, Mote secured US\$7,000,000 in philanthropic donations to construct and launch a new 19,000 ft², state-of-the-art, *Elizabeth Moore International Center for Coral Reef Research & Restoration (IC2R3)*, that includes the *Alfred Goldstein Institute for Climate Change Studies*, on our Summerland Key campus in the Florida Keys. Mote scientists have pioneered a novel technique (coral micro-fragmentation and re-skinning) that has changed the paradigm for coral restoration science, and is being deployed as an innovative coral restoration technology applicable around the world (Forsman *et al.*, 2015; Page *et al.*, 2018). In recognition of her contributions to coral health and disease research, our IC2R3 Science Director, Dr. Erinn Muller, received the 2015 Young Scientist Award from the International Coral Reef Society, and the 2019 U.S. Presidential Early Career Award in Science & Engineering (PECASE). Mote also regularly publishes popular press articles aimed at increasing the public understanding of the vital importance of coral reefs. We have attached a brief sample list from hundreds of Mote publications specifically related to coral reefs.

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**MOTE CORAL REEF EXPLORATION EXHIBIT AT THE
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82100 Overseas Highway
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**MOTE LIVING REEF EXHIBIT AT THE NATIONAL
MARINE SANCTUARY'S ECO-DISCOVERY CENTER**

35 East Quay Road
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A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO ADVANCING THE SCIENCE OF THE SEA AND A MEMBER OF:

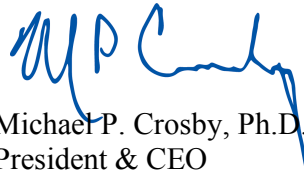
American Academy of Underwater Sciences • Arts & Cultural Alliance of Sarasota • Association of Zoos & Aquariums • Association of Marine Laboratories of the Caribbean • Consortium for Ocean Leadership • Economic Development Council of Sarasota County • Florida Institute of Oceanography • Florida Ocean Alliance • Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce • Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System • International Association of Aquatic & Marine Science Libraries & Information Centers • International Consortium for Marine Conservation • National Association of Marine Laboratories Science & Environment Council of Sarasota County • Sea Grant • Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association • Southern Association of Marine Laboratories

Mote is a leader in coral resiliency and restoration efforts, has successfully outplanted more than 75,000 corals to date (with 26,000 so far in 2019), currently has the capacity to produce 20,000 to 30,000 coral plantings on an annual basis, and is training scientists and volunteers from around the world to transfer this technology at a global scale through local community action. It is our innovative science, however, that will ultimately provide for the long-term success of those plantings. Mote science has and continues to identify specific coral genotypes of endemic coral species that demonstrate a science-based resiliency to both known and future stressors of disease, ocean temperature increases and ocean acidification.

The mission and impact of Mote Marine Laboratory coral reef research, science education and community engagement aligns well with that of the International Coral Reef Initiative, and we would welcome the opportunity to be a significant partner in the ICRI goal of preserving coral reefs and related systems around the world.

On behalf of Mote Marine Laboratory, I respectfully request acceptance of our application for membership and commit to our engagement following ICRI approval.

Sincerely,



Michael P. Crosby, Ph.D.
President & CEO

Cc: Wilfrid Deri (Monaco), Senior Officer - Département des Relations Extérieures et de la Coopération (Foreign Affairs); wderi@gouv.mc

Additional Sample of Hundreds of Coral related Publications by Mote Staff (bolded authors):

- Al-Aidaros, A.M., A.A.J. Kumar, A.E. Al-Haj, A.M. Al-Sofyani, **M.P. Crosby**, and M.M. El-Sherbiny. 2019. Morphology of the complete larval stages of *Portunus segnis* (Forskål, 1775) (Crustacea: Brachyura: Portunidae) from the Gulf of Aqaba, Saudi Arabia. *Zootaxa* 4638 (2): 199-218.
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