



Office of Commerce & Investment

Memorandum of Understanding

Between

College of the Marshall Islands (CMI)

PO Box 1258, Republic of the Marshall Islands

and

Office of Commerce and Investment (OCI)

PO Box 898, Republic of the Marshall Islands

The College of the Marshall Islands (CMI)

The College of the Marshall Islands came into official existence when the Board of Regents of the Community College of Micronesia issued its charter on October 10, 1989, designating it as the College of Micronesia-Majuro. Less than two years later, in January 1991, it was given its present name and accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges. In April 1993, CMI became an independent entity with its own Board of Regents and was chartered to serve as the post-secondary agency for the RMI. The College serves students primarily from within the Micronesian region and is designated as the national postsecondary institution for the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), as enacted in RMI PL 1992-13, *The College of the Marshall Islands Act*.

The College of the Marshall Islands (CMI) is an autonomous community college offering high school equivalency, community extension, student development, certificate and associate degree programs in Liberal Arts, Elementary Education, and Nursing and a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education.

The Office of Commerce and Investment (OCI)

The Office of Commerce and Investment (OCI) is the national investment and trade promotion agency of the republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) established under the Commerce & Investment Act, 2013. It is the focal point for all matters relating to investment and export development in RMI and is also the investment arm of the government. The OCI is mandated to stimulate the development, expansion and growth of the economy by promoting RMI as an international investment, business and service together with objective to, facilitate and stimulate increased investments and exports and undertakes regulatory functions to register, and monitor foreign investment projects for the increase of the economic productivity of RMI. OCI will provide advisory extension services, make or guarantee loans to assist construction, authorize



funds for investment and assist in formation of corporations on joint ventures for the purpose of carrying out new business ventures in RMI.

Background

With at least 95% of RMI's fresh produce requirement imported due to its atoll environment, hydroponic farming provides a critical and viable opportunity for the health and livelihood of the Marshallese in terms of accessibility and affordability (of fresh produce), and income generation. With a view to creating the livelihood and enhancing the well-being of communities through skills-based ventures, CMI and OCI have agreed to a collaborative partnership in the following Memorandum of Understanding (hereafter referred to as the "MOU").

The purpose of the MOU is to establish a framework for the successful implementation of a hydroponic project which is sustainable and is community-based.

Both parties firmly believe in the generation of beneficial economic opportunities for the communities and the development of appropriate skills and knowledge for the Marshallese.

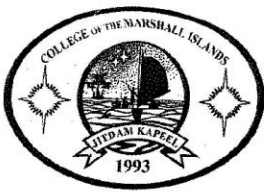
The two Parties have agreed as follows:

1. Hydroponic Systems

- 1.1 OCI will have the hydroponic systems installed at the CMI Arrak Campus.
- 1.2 CMI will allow the hydroponic system to be installed at its Arrak Campus.
- 1.3 OCI through the Ministry of R & D will provide the funding support for the Hydroponic unit, nutrients and seedlings.
- 1.4 OCI will ensure that CMI personnel will be trained at no cost to provide maintenance for the hydroponic system.

2. Training

- 2.1 OCI through the Ministry of R & D support will fund the Technical expert from the Taiwan Hydroponic Development Company (THDC), the overseas supplier of the product to undertake the training on the hydroponic system.
- 2.2 OCI will process and select the locals to be trained.
- 2.3 CMI will be trained as a trainer and will continue to train other locals as required.
- 2.4 CMI will look at the potential of including the training in its curriculum to sustain the skills and knowledge for the hydroponic systems.



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3. Costs and Expenses

3.1 Unless otherwise agreed, each party shall bear the costs and expenses for its participation in activities under this MOU. Cost coverage /sharing of specific tasks and programs will be discussed and agreed in advance on a case-by-case basis.

4. Due Diligence

4.1 OCI will provide the due diligence of the hydroponic system in terms of environmental compliance and systems durability; and will provide assurance as accordingly.

5. Loan Funding

5.1 As for the Commercialization of the project in RMI community, OCI will process loan applications for the hydroponic project under the Capital Small Grants Scheme in close collaboration with the Marshall Islands Development Bank. Successful applicants will undergo training. This Loan Package will be available after the Cabinet and Nitijela approval in August, 2017.

6. Working Group Team

- 6.1 Each Party shall nominate a counterpart, who shall be a senior officer to act as a focal contact person for any matter relating to this Memorandum of Understanding.
- 6.2 The two Parties will establish a Working Group Team to ensure the successful implementation of the project.

7. Implementation

7.1 This MOU shall enter into force upon its signing by both Parties and shall remain in effect until both, or either Party requests its termination by a letter addressed to the other upon three months prior written notice.



Signed in Majuro, on this 15th day of June, 2017.

**For the College of the Marshall Islands
(CMI)**

**For the Office of Commerce & Investment
(OCI)**

President

Chief Executive Officer