Address by Shona Lynch, Country Manager of CIC at the Exploration Licence Grant Ceremony 2022

Dome, National Auditorium 23 February 2022

Kia Orana tatou katoatoa i teia ra. Tatou tei putuputu mai i teia avatea, Kia Orana Kia Orana rava, i te aroa maata o to tatou atu ko iesu mesia.

Ko kotou e akarakara mai nei na roto i te karere akaariari Kia Orana tatou katoatoa.

Ko tatou i te enua nei Kia Orana, te iti tangata Kuki Airani e noo mai ra i vao ake ite akaau Kia Orana, Kia Orana rava i te aroa maata o to tatou atu.

I teia ra te na roto atu nei iaku te akameitakianga a te kamupani CIC Limited to matou akaere koia a Mr. Greg Stemm e te au aronga anganga i te akameitaki i te Kavamani e te iti tangata Kuki Airani katoatoa no teia tikaanga, akarakaraanga minera i roto i te kotinga moana kimi puapinga o te Kuki Airani.

Te opati Takere Moana, Ms Alex Herman e toou opati katoatoa Kia Orana I te aroa maata o to tatou atu. Te rauka nei ia matou CIC Limited I te aka meitaki iakoe e maine e toou opati no ta kotou I rauka I te rave I tae mai ei tatou ki teia ra, Meitaki Maata!

Te aere atu nei the kapikianga kia tatou katoatoa, te iti tangata Kuki Airani kia taokotai tatou mate pure, kia oronga mai te atua te marama e te karape I roto I teia tuatau o tatou katoatoa.

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It is with great honour that the CIC team accept this exploration licence.

To the government, the people of the Cook Islands we thank you for this opportunity.

To the government, today marks a very special day for Cook Islanders. On behalf of our founder/chairman of the board Mr. Greg Stemm and our CIC family we thank you all for trusting us.

As we begin to learn about our ocean resource, we look forward to working with our people of the Cook Islands.

The environmental aspects of this project will remain at the forefront of each step of the strategic and tactical decision-making processes of the project.

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Where to from now? What are our next steps CIC?

A vessel has been secured in Wellington to mount preliminary environmental and oceanographic studies in CICs' exploration area. This is set to go however our maritime borders remain close till May of this year

Employment opportunities for Cook Islanders to immediately join the CIC team for a variety of positions including administration, logistics and offshore operations (both scientific and maritime).

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CIC will officially engage with the many local stakeholders including National Environment Services, Marae Moana, Government Ministries, NGOs, businesses, schools and anyone interested in being involved/informed about the anticipated exploration work program.

Our CIC office is now open by the airport, the first blue house opposite TOA petroleum. Our office space will be open to the public during working hours to come in and learn about our resources and to also tap into our live stream as to what is happening on our vessel while out at sea.

The continuing various projects throughout CITAT to help contribute towards cultural and traditional arts programs throughout the country. May I express our deepest meitaki maata to the Government and the people of the Cook Islands.

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To CIIC Seabed Resource and Moana Minerals congratulations.

Ei akakou i taku tuanga i teia ra - Salamo 121 irava 1 e te 2, E akara ai nei toku mata ki te au tuaivi e rauka ai nei toku tauturu iaku ireira. Noo ko ia iehova ra te tauturu iaku, ko tei anga i te au rangi e te enua.

On behalf of CIC - Kia Orana e Kia Manuia.