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Dear colleagues


On behalf of James Cook University, I am delighted to invite and welcome participants to the 12th International Coral Reef Symposium to be held in Australia in mid-2012. James Cook University is very proud to host the ICRS in partnership with our colleagues in Townsville, around Australia and beyond.

The International Coral Reef Symposium, which is held every four years, brings together the world's leaders in coral reef research, education, policy development and management and provides wonderful opportunities to share knowledge and improve understanding of the importance of coral reef ecosystems world-wide. Coral reefs are critically important ecologically, economically and socially. Globally, the welfare of 500 million people is closely linked to the goods and services provided by coral reef biodiversity and all countries are seeking to improve how coral reefs are managed, so that these critical natural resources can sustain future human development.

James Cook University (JCU) was established in 1970 to pursue and encourage study and research, especially in subjects of importance to the people of the tropics. We have articulated our purpose as being to create a brighter future for life in the tropics world-wide through graduates and discoveries that make a difference. With its location on the doorstep of the Great Barrier Reef and in close proximity to the Coral Triangle region JCU has long been committed to research and teaching excellence in coral reef studies. This intent aligns very closely with the themes of the ICRS and we are looking forward to the symposium advancing understanding of the serious challenges that coral reef ecosystems are currently facing.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming participants to the 12th International Coral Reef Symposium to James Cook University in 2012.

Yours sincerely



Professor Sandra Harding
Vice-Chancellor and President