

Working Group on National Implementation Measures

Palau takes this opportunity to thank its donors, the CCM and the APMB for being instrumental in making mine clearance possible and successful in Palau. Palau's mine clearance continue its progress, but foreseen to encounter difficulties due to lack of nation standards and operating procedures to guide mine clearance and its actors. With such shortfall of capacity, Palau continues to appeal to the CCM, APMB, civil society and our developing partners for assistance toward development of much needed national mine action standards and guidance.

Although lacking such vital guidelines, Palau is excited about the mine clearance work on the ground and wish for the clearance to continue. Such direction from our civil society and leaders, Palau's national government has created an informal national ERW Working Group to initiate discussion on possible government structures, regulations and attempt to understand the IMAS.

Even though an ERW Working Group have initiated work at our national level, I must appeal to this forum that national SOPs and standards are long overdue, due to the magnitude of hazard posed to our community and Palau's pristine natural environment.

Thank you.