MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE COOK ISLANDS
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
ON COOPERATION WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF
THE SILK ROAD ECONOMIC BELT
AND THE 21ST CENTURY MARITIME SILK ROAD INITIATIVE

The Government of the Cook Islands and the Government of the People’s Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as “the two Participants”), based on the aspiration of further promoting bilateral practical cooperation,

Welcoming and supporting China’s initiative to jointly promote the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road Initiative (hereinafter referred to as the Belt and Road Initiative), with the aim of promoting exchanges of goods, technology, capital and personnel through mutual connectivity and mutual learning with countries share such willingness to jointly building the Belt and Road through promoting coordinated development and common progress in economy, society, environment and cultural aspects, encouraging dialogues and integration among different civilizations as well as promoting to build a community of a shared future for mankind; welcoming China in hosting the Belt and Road
Forum for International Cooperation, and willing to strengthen practical cooperation in related fields under the framework of jointly promoting the Belt and Road Initiative;

Recognizing the political consensus of jointly promoting the Belt and Road Initiative, the two participants decide to work together to form synergy between the two economies, enhance policy coordination and deepen mutually beneficial and practical cooperation, and mutual learning between civilizations, with a view to realizing joint development and common prosperity of the two Participants;

Have reached the following understanding:

**Paragraph I Objectives and Guiding Principles of Cooperation**

1. The two Participants will work together within the Belt and Road Initiative to realize:

   - the goal of common development, translate mutual complementary strengths into advantages for practical cooperation and sustainable growth. This will enable the two Participants to enhance their political relations, economic ties, security cooperation and people-to-people exchanges;

   - strengthening cooperation and promoting regional connectivity between regions, jointly establishing an economic cooperation framework which is open, inclusive, balanced, and beneficial to all so as to maintain
regional peace, security, stability and sustainable development.

II. The two Participants will promote the bilateral cooperation based on the following principles:

(i) Guided by the principles of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, the two Participants will respect the core interests and major concerns of each other, deepen mutual trust and beneficial cooperation for common development and prosperity;

(ii) In accordance with respective effective domestic laws and regulations which are consistent with their respective international obligations and commitments, two Participants will ensure the safe and smooth progress of related cooperation projects and energize their economic and social development.

(iii) In accordance with the concept of cooperation, development and win-win progress under the Initiative of jointly building the Belt and Road, the two Participants will make full use of existing bilateral cooperation mechanisms, multilateral mechanisms that they have both joined, and effective regional cooperation platforms to form synergy, provide each other with support.
Paragraph II Areas of Cooperation

The two Participants will cooperate in the following areas:

I. Policy Coordination. The two Participants will regularly communicate and promote the synergy of their major development strategies, planning and policies, as well as strengthen communication and coordination for respective important major policy adjustments;

II. Facilities Connectivity. The two participants will conduct cooperation and exchanges of infrastructure in areas of mutual interest in line with each other’s development priorities, such as roads, bridges, civil aviation, ports and energy, telecommunications etc.;

III. Unimpeded trade. The two Participants will enhance open up further to each other, expand two-way investment and trade flow, further deepen investment, trade and industrial cooperation, explore ways and methods to promote substantive mutually beneficial cooperation, in line with each other’s development priorities.

IV. Financial Integration. The two Participants will enhance financial cooperation on the basis of mutual benefits in accordance with their respective laws and legislations.
V. **People-to-people bond.** The two Participants will promote people-to-people exchange, further develop the sister cities network and conclude cooperation agreements on education, culture, health, tourism and public welfare, etc. The two Participants will enhance exchange and cooperation between their local governments, media, think-tanks, and the youths, and continue to promote the development cooperation related to public welfare.

V. Other cooperation that the two Participants agree on.

**Paragraph III Modes of Cooperation**

I. Modes of cooperation may include but are not limited to:

(i) Through exchange of high-level visits and existing governmental and non-governmental exchange mechanisms, the two Participants will have a meaningful dialogue in areas of cooperation to increase transparency and encourage participation of people in all sectors of society.

(ii) Focus on the common demands of bilateral cooperation, the two Participants will carry out joint plans, pilot programs in key areas, economic and technological exchanges and cooperation, joint researches, information sharing, capacity building, personnel exchanges and training etc.
(iii) The two Participants will explore mutually beneficial models of cooperation to support the implementation of major programs, such as infrastructure and production capacity alignment, etc. under the Belt and Road Initiative. The two Participants will follow the market principle, promote the cooperation between public and private capital, provide investment and financing support through diversified model and strengthen exchanges and cooperation to ensure safety of the projects.

II. The two Participants may conclude agreements or other cooperation documents for cooperation in a specific field in accordance with the law and legislations of both participants.

**Paragraph IV  Cooperation Mechanism**

The two Participants will make full use of existing bilateral cooperation mechanisms to jointly promote the Belt and Road Initiative, explore the new opportunities for bilateral cooperation, through guidance and coordination on major issues in cooperation.

**Paragraph V Settlement of Differences**

Any differences in the interpretation/implementation of this Understanding by the Participants will be settled through consultations conducted in good faith.
Paragraph VI  Coming into Effect, Amendment and Termination

I. This Memorandum of Understanding will come into effect from the date of signing.

II. This Memorandum of Understanding will remain in effect for five years and will be automatically extended for subsequent five-year periods and so forth unless terminated by either party by giving the other party a written notice at least three months in advance.

III. This Memorandum of Understanding may be amended by written consent of the two Participants and the amendment will be an integral part of this Memorandum of Understanding.

IV. To terminate this Memorandum of Understanding, one Participant should give the other party a written notice through diplomatic channels at least three months in advance. This Memorandum of Understanding will be terminated after joint agreement. The termination of this Memorandum of Understanding will not influence executing programs which will continue according to the agreed timetable.
V. With the aim of promoting cooperation, the Memorandum of Understanding does not constitute a treaty between countries or create any rights or obligations in international law.


Representative of the
Government of the Cook Islands

Representative of the
Government of the People’s Republic of China