



## Media Release

23 November 2010

### **New Era for Troplinks Board**

Troplinks Inc. is a not for profit membership association, and is the lead organisation in the promotion, commercialisation and export of Tropical Expertise across Northern Australia.

At its recent AGM on 18 November, 2010 Troplinks welcomed three new board members, adding to its already extensive reserve of tropical expertise.

In announcing the appointments today, the newly appointed President of Troplinks, Mr Geoffrey Plante, said the appointments of Dr Geoffrey Garrett, Dr Ian Watson and Mr Frank Dallmeyer, will bring a breadth of skills and experience relevant to the company's objectives and plans for the continued growth of tropical economies in Northern Australia.

Dr Geoffrey Garrett AO, held the position of CEO of CSIRO for eight years and will take up the position of Queensland Chief Scientist from mid-January 2011. Dr Garrett is a recipient of the Centenary Medal for services to Australian science, and served on the Prime Minister's Science, Engineering and Innovation Council in Australia for eight years. He is also a founder of the Global Research Alliance, a group which brings together some of the world's most significant R&D organisations, spanning five continents.

Dr Ian Watson is based in Townsville with the CSIRO, and has a background in agricultural science and rangeland ecology. He is Program Leader for CSIRO's Tropical and Arid Systems Program, as well as being the CSIRO Site Leader in Townsville and Director of the Tropical Landscapes Joint Venture (TLJV), a partnership between James Cook University and the CSIRO.

Mr Frank Dallmeyer started his professional career in Germany and for 14 years worked in various international management positions at Draeger Safety in Germany, Malaysia and Australia. Following his move to North Queensland in 2004, Frank joined Townsville Enterprise as Economic Development Manager and 2IC. During this time, he developed a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities that present themselves to Government authorities and private enterprises in the tropical regions of Australia. In 2007, Frank established Tropical Energy Solutions Pty Ltd, to provide energy system design and construction services for tropical environments.

The new appointees will join re-elected board members – Mr Geoff Plante, Ms Debra Burden, Professor Sandra Harding, Mr Brad Webb, Mr Mario Pennisi and Dr Ian Poiner.

The Executive Regional Director for DEEDI in the North, Mr Peter Mellor, welcomes the appointment of Mr Geoff Plante as President, and the new members joining the board. Mr Mellor says he is looking forward to assisting Troplinks achieve their objectives. Troplinks has been collaborating with the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI), on a number of significant tropical expertise initiatives being facilitated by DEEDI officers in the Townsville and Cairns Service Centres.

The new board of directors will continue the work of retiring members, Professor Peter Andrews, Dr Andrew Johnson and Mr Ron Tong, in attaining the organisation's objective to develop members' capacity to commercialise and export Tropical Expertise to international tropical markets.

Troplinks CEO, Mr Graham Poon says he is looking forward to working closely with the newly appointed board.



Troplinks is currently pursuing projects in Fiji, Solomon Islands, Guam, Maldives, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Japan, Kazakhstan and Libya. Future projects are to include trade missions to targetted international markets such as Guam, Papua New Guinea and the Pacific. Commercialisation of Tropical Innovation will also be a key focus.

For further information about Troplinks, please visit [www.troplinks.com](http://www.troplinks.com) or contact Jodie Dollery, Office Manager on 07 4041 0955, e-mail: [jodie.dollery@troplinks.com](mailto:jodie.dollery@troplinks.com).

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