



INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY *news*

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India Signs Exploration Contract with ISA



The International Seabed Authority and the Government of India signed a 15-year exploration contract for polymetallic sulphides.

The contract was signed on Monday, 26 September in New Delhi, India by the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority, Nii Allotey Odunton and Dr M Rajeevan, Secretary of the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

The application area, located in the central Indian Ocean, covers 10,000 km² and consists of 100

blocks, each of 10 km by 10 km, which are grouped into five clusters, each containing from 15 to 30 blocks. The application area is confined within a rectangular area not exceeding 300,000 km² in size and where the longest side does not exceed 1,000 km in length.

The Government of India also has an exploration contract with the Authority for polymetallic nodules in the Indian Ocean, which entered into force on 24 March 2002.



ISA 22nd Session

Extension of the first set of exploration contracts, new applications for approval of plans of work for exploration and the development of draft regulations for exploitation of polymetallic nodules in the deep seabed beyond the limits of national jurisdiction (the Area) were among priority issues debated during the twenty-second annual session of the International Seabed Authority convened in Kingston, Jamaica, from 11 to 22 July 2016.

Other matters included the dissemination of the interim report on how the legal regime for the Area had operated in accordance with article 154 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and elections to the Council, Finance Committee, the Legal and Technical Commission, and for a Secretary-General.

SESSION OFFICERS

The President of the Assembly for the 22nd Session was [Rear Admiral MD. Khurshed Alam](#) of Bangladesh. Vice-Presidents were from Brazil, Slovakia, Mozambique and Canada

The President of the Council for the 22nd Session was [Dr. Mariusz Orion Jędrysek](#) of Poland. Vice-Presidents were from Uganda, France, India and Mexico.

EXTENSIONS OF EXPLORATION CONTRACTS

On the recommendations by the Legal and Technical Commission, the Council approved six exploration contracts for polymetallic nodules by China Ocean Mineral Resources Research and

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

26 *India-ISA
Exploration Contract
Signing, New Delhi,
India*

OCTOBER

26 *Visit by the
Delegation of the
Chinese Academy of
Sciences, Kingston*

DECEMBER

9 *Oceans and Law of
the Sea. UN General
Assembly, New York*

2017

FEBRUARY

20-3/3 March
*Legal and
Technical
Commission
Meeting, Kingston*

Permanent Representatives of Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica Present Credentials to the ISA Secretary-General



On 13 July 2016, **His Excellency, Mr. Fitzgerald McArthur Jeffrey** (pictured above left) presented his credentials to the Secretary-General as the new Permanent Representative of Trinidad and Tobago to the International Seabed Authority.

Ambassador Jeffrey has spent over two decades in the academic sector teaching at different levels as well as holding a variety of administrative positions in the education sector. In 2007 he was appointed Member of Parliament for La Brea, a position he held until 2015. Whilst in Government he was appointed Minister of State in the Ministry of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education from 2007 to 2010, and has served on various Parliamentary and Ministerial Committees.



Her Excellency, Ambassador Sheila Sealy Monteith, presented her credentials to the Secretary-General on Tuesday, 23 August 2016 as the new Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the International Seabed Authority.

Ambassador Monteith is currently the Acting Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade in Kingston. She carries some thirty years of work experience in the theory and practice of diplomacy at bilateral, regional and international levels and is actively involved in human resource management, policy-making and implementation.

Ambassador Monteith has represented her country as High Commissioner to Canada, Acting Deputy Permanent representative to the United Nations and Jamaica's Representative to the Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary matters) of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

The digital newsletter is also available [online](#).

Opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Authority. Neither does the mention of any firm or licensed process imply endorsement by the Authority.

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Training Programmes @ the ISA

Contractor Training Programmes

From 2013 to date, a total of 45 training places in at-sea training, engineering training, fellowship training, master's and PhD programmes and workshop internship were provided by nine contractors. If all existing and new contracts, and extended contracts were implemented in respect of training programmes, it could be expected that about 200 training places would be made available by contractors from 2016 to 2020.

Endowment Fund

As at 20 May 2016, a total of 111 scientists or government officials from

45 countries have been beneficiaries of financial support from the endowment fund. The endowment fund is one of the principal mechanisms for enabling capacity-building in the field of marine scientific research in the deep ocean. Members of the Authority, other States, relevant international organizations, academic, scientific and technical institutions, philanthropic organizations, and corporations are encouraged to contribute to it.

Internships

The purpose of the internship programme is twofold: (a) to provide a framework through which students and young government officials from diverse

academic backgrounds gain exposure to the work and functions of the Authority in order to enhance their educational experience and/or gain experience in the work of the Authority; and (b) to enable the Authority to benefit from the assistance of qualified students and young government officials specialized in various skills within the scope of its activities. The Authority accepts interns on a limited basis, depending on the specific needs of respective offices and their capacity to effectively support, accommodate and supervise the interns. All training opportunities are publicized on the ISA website and through social media. All training enquiries can be emailed to training@isa.org.jm

ISA /Ifremer-sponsored Candidates Attend LabexMER Workshop



ISA/Ifremer sponsored trainees that attended the Meioscool workshop in June/July in Brest, France. L-R: Anabela Jesús Taverna (Argentina), Dharmendra Singh (India), Lorelie Burgos (Philippines), Beatriz Mercado (Colombia) and Tseng Aristide Sorel (Cameroon)



ISA/Ifremer supported five internships from developing countries to participate in a 5-day taxonomy workshop held in Brest, France from 27 June to 1 July 2016 as part of the annual summer schools organized by **LabexMER**. Participants at the workshop were taught basic and theoretical skills that were required to process samples and identify taxa of the benthic meio- and macrofauna.

The workshop also included sessions dedicated to the deep-sea fauna associated with nodule fields including molecular biology applied to barcoding, sampling and preparation protocols of benthic samples.

The activity was part of Ifremer's contractor training programme where contractors with the Authority have a

legal obligation to provide and fund training opportunities for trainees from developing States. All contractor training programmes are formulated following negotiations between the Authority and the contractor in accordance with recommendations for guidance issued by the Legal and Technical Commission and included as Schedule 3 of the contract for exploration.

ISA 22nd Session Round Up continued...



L-R: Secretary-General Oduntun with 2016 Assembly President, Rear Admiral MD. Khurshed Alam and 2015 Assembly President and Chair of the Review Committee, Ambassador Helmut Tuerk

Development Association, Republic of Korea, Yuzmorgeologiya, Deep Ocean Resources Development Co. Ltd, Institut français de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer, and InterOceanmetal Joint Organization.

ELECTIONS

Finance Committee

The Assembly elected 15 members to the Finance Committee ([ISBA/22/A/14](#)) for the period 2017-2021.

They are: Ahila Sornarajah (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland); Andrzej Przybycin (Poland); David Wilkens (Germany); Duncan Laki (Uganda); Frida Armas-Pfirter (Argentina); Hiroshi Onuma (Japan); James Waweru (Kenya); Kenneth Wong (Canada); Kerry-Ann Spaulding (Jamaica); Konstantin Muraviov (Russian Federation); Koteswara Rao (India); Olivier Guyonvarch (France); Reinaldo Storani (Brazil); Ye Minn Thein (Myanmar) and Zhi Sun (China).

Legal and Technical Commission (LTC)

The Council elected 30 members to the Legal and Technical Commission ([ISBA/22/C/29](#)) for the period 2017-2021.

They are : Dorca Achapa (Kenya); Mark Alcock (Australia); Alfonso Ascencio-Herrera (Mexico); Mario Aurelio (Philippines); Khalid Awan (Pakistan); Harald Brekke (Norway); Winifred Broadbelt (Netherlands); Georgy Cherkashev (Russian Federation); Malcolm

Clark (New Zealand); Montserrat Carillo (Chile); Russell Howorth (Fiji); Elie Jarmache (France) Thembile Elphus Joyini (South Africa); Se-Jong Ju (Republic of Korea); Ryszard Kotliński (Poland); Rena Lee (Singapore); Carlos Leite (Brazil); Pedro Madureira (Portugal); Adolfo González (Spain); Théophile Mbarga (Cameroon); Nobuyuki Okamoto (Japan); Gordon Paterson (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland); Christian Reichert (Germany); Andrés Rojas (Argentina); Mahmoud Samy (Egypt); Joshua Tuhumwire (Uganda); Siosua Utoikamanu (Tonga); Milind Wakdikar (India); Michelle Walker (Jamaica) and Jun Wu (China).

Council

The Assembly elected 19 States parties to fill vacancies in the Council ([ISBA/22/A/12/Rev.1](#)) for a 4-year period from 1 January 2017. They are: Group A - China, Japan; Group B - India; Group C - Canada and South Africa, Group D - Bangladesh, Brazil and Uganda; and Group E - Algeria, Argentina, Côte d'Ivoire, Czech Republic, Netherlands, Panama, Poland, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Island.

Secretary-General

Mr [Michael Lodge](#), current Deputy to the Secretary-General and Legal Counsel was elected Secretary-General for a four year term to begin 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2020.

Budget

The Assembly approved a budget of \$17,130,700 for the financial period 2017-2018.

Observers

The following organizations were granted observer status to participate in the work of the Assembly: a Vienna-based non-profit organization, Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary; the African Minerals Development Centre, based in Addis Ababa; Durham University's Centre for Borders Research, based in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; Resolve, based in Washington, D.C., USA; The Pew Charitable Trusts, based in Philadelphia, USA; and the Deep-Ocean Stewardship Initiative.

Credentials Committee

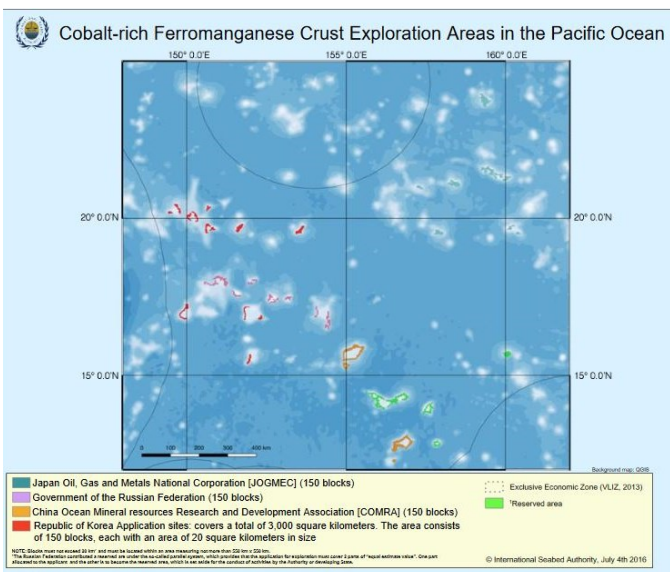
The Credential Committee comprised members from Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Cameroon, Germany, Jamaica, Japan, Myanmar and the Russian Federation.

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22nd Session Photo Collage...



ISA Council Approves Exploration Application by Republic of Korea



On the recommendations of the LTC, the Council of the International Seabed Authority, approved a plan of work for exploration for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts by the Government of the Republic of Korea at

its 22nd Session in July. The area under application is located east of the Northern Mariana Islands and covers a total of 3,000 km². The area consists of 150 blocks, each with an area of 20 km². Each block is rectangular in shape and measures either 5 km by 4 km (or 4 km by 5 km) or 10 km by 2 km (or 2 km by 10 km), in respect of width and length.

The Republic of Korea's Institute of Ocean Science and Technology, the Korea Research Institute of Ships and Ocean Engineering and the Korea Institute of Geoscience and Mineral

Resources, have been actively conducting marine scientific studies of deep seabed minerals for more than 25 years in collaboration with universities and industries investigating deep seabed mineral resources and mining technologies.

The Government of the Republic of Korea currently has two contracts with the Authority, for exploration for polymetallic nodules which entered into force on 27 April 2001 and for exploration for polymetallic sulphides which entered into force on 24 June 2014.

REVIEW COMMITTEE INTERIM REPORT

The Chair of the Review Committee, Ambassador Helmut Tuerk presented an interim report to oversee the periodic review of the international regime of the Area pursuant to article 154 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. In taking note of the Interim Report and the comments by the Review Committee, the Finance Committee and the Legal and

Technical Commission; the Assembly decided to provide States parties, Observers and stakeholders, further opportunity to submit written observations on the interim report including replying to the questionnaire drawn up by the consultants.

A revised report taking into account these additional observations will be available by the 15 January 2017 with a draft final to be transmitted to States parties and Observers

before 15 April 2017.

Dates for the 2017 Session

The meeting of the Legal and Technical Commission will be held from 20 February - 3 March 2017. The dates for the 23rd Session will be announced in due course.

All documents, statements and press releases for the 22nd Session are available [online](#).

What is the Article 154 Review?

The Authority recently undertook its first periodic review of the manner in which the international regime for the Area has operated in practice.

In 2015, the Assembly appointed a Review Committee chaired by former Judge of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and current President of the Assembly for that year, Ambassador Helmut Tuerk of Austria. At its first

meeting in January 2016, the Committee appointed Seascope Consultants Ltd, a UK-based consultancy firm, to assist the Committee to conduct the review. Key inputs to the review included intensive reviews of the Authority, analysis of the questionnaire by member States, Contractors and Observers and structured interviews with key stakeholders. The [interim report](#) by the consultants together with comments by the [Review Committee](#), the [Finance Committee](#) and the [Legal and Technical](#)

[Commission](#) was made available at the 22nd Session.

A revised report will be available by the 15 January 2017 with a draft final to be transmitted to States parties and Observers before 15 April 2017.

States parties, Observers and Stakeholders are invited to further submit written observations on the interim report, comments and the questionnaire before 15 October 2016 to snavoti@isa.org.jm.

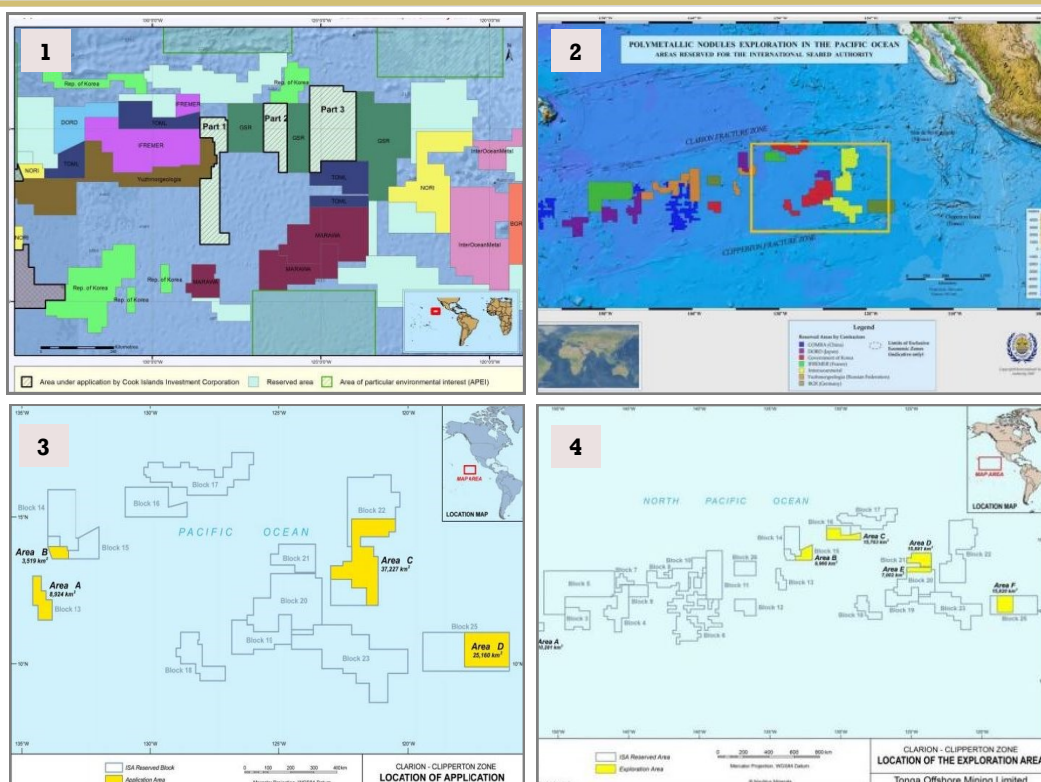
Cook Islands Investment Corporation Sign Contract for Exploration of Polymetallic Nodules

The International Seabed Authority and the Cook Islands Investment Corporation (CIIC) have signed a 15-year contract for exploration for polymetallic nodules in the Clarion-Clipperton Fracture Zone (CCZ).

The Contract was signed in Kingston on Friday 15 July 2016 by the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority, Nii Allotey Odunton, and Michael Henry, the Director of CIIC.

The application for the exploration contract was approved by the Council of the International Seabed Authority on 21 July 2014.

The area allocated to the Contractor covers a total surface of 75,000 square kilometres (km²) in the Clarion-Clipperton Fracture Zone (CCZ) and comprises three non-continuous parts.



Cook Islands is the fourth Pacific Island sponsoring State to sign 15-year [exploration contracts](#) for polymetallic nodules with the International Seabed Authority. The other three contracts are with Marawa Research and Exploration Ltd., Kiribati (signed on 19 January 2015); Tonga Offshore Mining Ltd., Tonga (signed on 11 January 2012); and Nauru Ocean Resources Inc., Nauru (signed on 22 July 2011). All the contract areas are located in the Clarion-Clipperton Fracture Zone.

There are a total of 16 contracts for polymetallic nodules; five for polymetallic sulphides and four for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts.

General locations of the areas under contract - 1: Cook Islands; 2: Kiribati; 3: Nauru; 4: Tonga

International Seabed Authority and the International Hydrographic Organization Sign Agreement of Cooperation



1. L-R Front: Secretary-General Odunton and Robert Ward, Back: Tidiani Couma, Secrétaire des Relations Extérieures, Direction des Affaires Internationales, Monaco and Gwenaelle Le Gurun, ISA Legal Officer

The International Seabed Authority and the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) have signed an Agreement of Cooperation in Kingston.

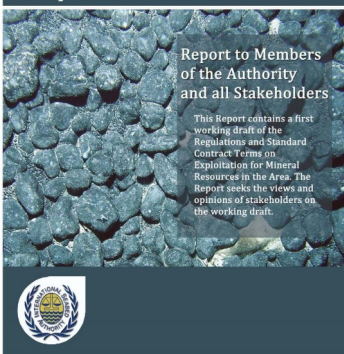
The Agreement was signed by Secretary-General Nii Allotey Odunton on behalf of the International Seabed Authority and Robert Ward, the President of the Directing Committee of the International Hydrographic Bureau on behalf of the International Hydrographic Organization.

The purpose of the agreement is to specify the scope of cooperation between the IHO and the Authority where both organizations will consult each other on matters of common interest with a view to ensuring maximum coordination of their work and activities and promoting, or enhancing a better understanding in the collection and exchange of standardized data and information.

The Agreement will help facilitate the exchange of bathymetric survey data, development of compatible digital input in relation to nautical charting requirements, global consistency in the treatment of bathymetric data covering ISA contract areas, development of a global approach to issuance of notices to mariners related to navigational warnings, development of standardized information in nautical publications that draw mariners' attention to installations used by ISA contractors and development of charting policies that address hazards related to concurrent activities in the ISA contract areas.

Working Draft Exploitation Regulations

Developing a Regulatory Framework for Mineral Exploitation in the Area



Report to Members of the Authority and all Stakeholders
This Report contains a first working draft of the Regulations and Standard Contract Terms on Exploitation for Mineral Resources in the Area. The Report seeks the views and opinions of stakeholders on the working draft.



The ISA Legal and Technical Commission issued a working [draft Regulations](#)

[and Standard Contract terms on Exploitation for Mineral Resources in the Area](#)

on 14 July as part of its remit from the ISA Council to develop the Mining Code for activities in the Area. The draft is a first step toward consolidating the views of the Authority's stakeholder base following a number of stakeholder consultation initiatives in 2015, workshops and technical discussion papers issued by the Authority.

The working draft represents the first phase in the development of a full suite of regulations that will include, *inter alia*, rules, regulations and procedures relating to environmental assessment and management, the setting up of a mining directorate and inspectorate and the equitable sharing of the receipts from mining activities. The Commission is seeking views and opinions on the content structure

from stakeholders. It is intended that with these views and a revised working draft, the newly-elected Commission hopes to formulate a clear methodology with regard to the elaboration of the Mining Code, timelines, stakeholder contribution and drafting process of the regulatory development, which will also reflect recommendations adopted by the Authority flowing from the article 154 review.