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ISA Holds First Public Forum in Kingston

The International Seabed Authority (Authority) hosted its first public forum at the University of West Indies, Mona campus, in Kingston on Friday, 23 June 2017. The forum was convened to engage with, and inform local communities of the work of the Authority, headquartered in Jamaica since 1994. It also addressed the role of the Authority in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

The forum was moderated by award-winning journalist and radio personality, Cliff Hughes of Nationwide Radio, and featured talks by Secretary-General, Michael Lodge, Deputy and Legal Counsel Alfonso Ascencio-Herrera and Director of the Office of Environmental Management and Mineral Resources, Dr Sandor Mulsow. The Government of Jamaica was represented by Dr Kathy-Ann Brown, Deputy Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the Authority who delivered the welcome address. Jamaican representative and current member, Vice-Chair of the Legal and Technical Commission, Ms Michelle Walker was a panellist at the Question and Answer Session.

Exploration Contractor representatives; Mr Yves Henocque of Institut français de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer of France; Mr Soichiro Tanaka of Deep Ocean Resources Development Co. Ltd. of Japan; Mr Carsten Rühlemann of the Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources of Germany, and Mr John Kurian of the National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research of India, also gave presentations which provided an overview of their respective exploration work.

The forum was attended by government officials, members of the diplomatic corps, representatives from various institutions and students.



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ISA 23rd Annual Session

The 23rd Session of the International Seabed Authority will be held in Kingston from **8-18 August 2017**. The Session will be preceded by meetings of the Legal and Technical Commission and the Finance Committee from 31 July to 4 August.

ASSEMBLY

The Assembly formally convenes on 8 August and resumes its meetings on 15 August following the completion of agenda items of the Council on 14 August. It is the turn of the African States Group to nominate a candidate for the Presidency.

Items on the Assembly's agenda include the consideration of the report of the Finance Committee; applications for observer status; report of the Secretary-General; and the [final report](#) of the article 154 Review Committee.

COUNCIL

The Latin American and Caribbean States Group will have their turn to nominate a candidate for the presidency of the Council. Items on the Council's Agenda include consideration of: the report of the Secretary-General on the status of national legislation relating to deep seabed mining and related matters; the status of contracts for exploration; the report of the Legal and Technical Commission Chair on the work of the Commission; and progress made with respect to the draft exploitation regulations.

LEGAL & TECHNICAL COMMISSION

The Commission met in February 2017 where it focused on priority items that included an application for the extension of an approved plan of work for exploration and the draft regulations for exploitation. It also elected Mr Christian Reichert of Germany as its Chair and Ms Michelle Walker of Jamaica as its Vice-Chair. The Commission established four working groups to review: the EMP for the Clarion-Clipperton Zone; recommendations for the guidance of contractors; the implementation of the Authority's data management strategy, and select candidates for



Council Presidents (L-R): Mr Mariusz Orion Jędrysek (Poland, 2016) and Ambassador Peter Thomson (Fiji, 2015)

the Contractors' training programmes.

At the July/August meeting, the Commission will continue deliberations on the agenda items, in particular the draft exploitation regulations; review the annual reports submitted by the Contractors and consider an application for a plan of work for exploration for polymetallic sulphides.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Committee is expected to review the budget for 2016/2017; consider an audit report on the accounts of the Authority; review the status of the Endowment and Voluntary Trust Funds, and the Working Capital Fund, as well as the status of implementation of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards. Additionally, the Committee will consider reports on the status of overhead charges for the administration and supervision of contracts and the implementation of the rules governing the management and administration of the Voluntary Trust Fund and related matters.

Exploration Contractors Meet in Kingston



Twenty-seven technical, legal and scientific experts representing 16 Exploration Contractors attended a workshop hosted by the International Seabed Authority, on 21-22 June 2017 at the University of the West Indies Regional Headquarters in Kingston.

The workshop was convened to inform contractors of the progress of the Authority's data management strategy and review its structure, to fill in gaps in data coverage. Discussion and feedback from the contractors was encouraged.

The workshop provided an opportunity for the Authority to bring in line recommendations related to exploration contracts and extensions contained in the [final report](#) by the article 154 Review Committee, and to access the current annual contractors report review process, to ensure compliance.

Other issues covered at the workshop included the contractor training programmes and identification of potential areas of collaboration between contractors, and with the Authority.

The representatives were from the Government of India, Deep Ocean Resources Development Co. Ltd., Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources of Germany, China Ocean Mineral Resources Research and Development Association, Government of the Republic of Korea, China Minmetals Corporation, UK Seabed Resources Ltd., Institut français de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer, Global Sea Mineral Resources NV, Nauru Ocean Resources Inc., Yuzhmorgeologiya, the Government of Russia, Ocean Mineral Singapore Pte Ltd., Interoceanmetal Joint Organization, Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation, and the Cook Islands Investment Corporation.



MEETINGS

In March 2017, Secretary-General Michael Lodge participated in the meeting of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf to celebrate the 20th anniversary of its establishment. Also in March, Mr Lodge and his Deputy and Legal Counsel, Mr Alfonso Ascencio-Herrera, attended the BBNJ Preparatory Committee in New York and the “ITLOS at 20 - Looking into the Future” Symposium where he gave a presentation focusing on the advisory and contentious jurisdiction of the Seabed Disputes Chamber of the Tribunal.

In April, the Authority hosted the 6th annual face-to-face meeting of the UN Ocean in Kingston, in preparation for the UN Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (ICP-18) meeting in May 2017 and the UN Ocean Conference in June 2017 in New York.

The Secretary-General also attended the first session of the International Hydrographic Organization Assembly in Monaco. Speaking at the Assembly, Secretary-General Lodge said the ISA-IHO Cooperation Agreement provided optimal opportunities for mutual consultation,

cross-sectoral cooperation, communication and exchange of information. Secretary-General Lodge was also a speaker at the INDEMER conference on marine science, held in Monaco in April, and gave a presentation on the Blue Economy onboard the Brazil research vessel *Vital de Oliveira*.

In May, Mr Alfonso Ascencio-Herrera, represented ISA as a moderator of the panel on Deep Seabed Minerals at the 41st Annual Conference of the Center for Oceans Law & Policy, in Indonesia.

In June, both Messrs Lodge and Ascencio-Herrera attended the 27th Meeting of States Parties to the Law of the Sea in New York.

In his statement, Mr Lodge emphasized one of the most important tasks for the Assembly this year as being the consideration of the [final report](#) of the Committee established under article 154 of the Convention to undertake a periodic review of the way in which the Part XI regime has operated. He also said that a chief priority for the Authority at this time is to deliver a Mining Code that will enable contractors to move from exploration to exploitation.

All official statements at the various meetings are available [online](#).



ITLOS at 20 Seminar



UN-Oceans Meeting



41st Conference, Indonesia

PROTOCOL



Ambassador Jose Maria Bosch Bessa of Spain presented his credentials to the Secretary-General, Michael Lodge, as the new Permanent Representative of Spain to the International Seabed Authority on Monday 26 June 2017.

The Ambassador joined the Foreign Service in 1982 and has travelled widely on diplomatic postings to Equatorial Guinea, Belgium, United Kingdom, Geneva and France. He was awarded the Order of Civil Merit (Spain) in 1986 and the Officer of the Order of Isabel La Catolica (Spain) in 1993.

In his meeting with the Secretary-General, Ambassador Bosch Bessa said Spain looked forward to working with the Authority and communicating the importance of its work to institutions and industrial sectors in Spain.

The Secretary-General expressed his appreciation for Spain's support for the Authority and active participation in the work of the Assembly and Council. He indicated his interest in forging stronger links with relevant scientific and technical institutions in Spain, especially noting Spain's position as a maritime nation.



China Minmetals Corporation Signs Exploration Contract with the International Seabed Authority



The International Seabed Authority and China Minmetals Corporation have signed a 15-year exploration contract for polymetallic nodules.

The allocated area covers a surface area of 72,745 km² of the Clarion-Clipperton Fracture Zone in the Pacific Ocean.

The exploration contract was signed on Friday, 12 May in Beijing, China by the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority, Michael Lodge and the Chairman of China Minmetals Corporation, He Wenbo.

At the signing ceremony, Secretary-General Lodge congratulated the Government of China on becoming the first member State to successfully sponsor four plans of work for exploration in the Area. He acknowledged the enormous efforts made

by the Chinese Government to adopt national legislation to provide a strong and stable platform that has enabled companies such as China Minmetals to apply for exploration rights in the international seabed Area.

China is also sponsoring another contractor with the Authority, COMRA, for the exploration for polymetallic nodules in the Clarion-Clipperton Zone since 2001, and for which a five-year extension was signed recently between Secretary-General Lodge and COMRA Secretary-General Liu Feng.

China also sponsors COMRA in contracts for exploration for polymetallic sulphides in the Southwest Indian Ridge and for exploration for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts in the Western Pacific Ocean.

Workshop: Working Towards an Environmental Strategy for the Area



In March 20-24 2017, a workshop aimed at assisting the ISA to develop a long-term Environmental Management Strategy for the Area was held in Berlin, Germany. ([Newsletter/Issue 8](#)). The workshop was jointly organized by the German Environment Agency (UBA) on behalf of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB), the Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR) on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi) and the Secretariat of the International Seabed Authority (ISA). Support was provided by the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies Potsdam e.V. (IASS). All presentations made at the workshop are available on our [website](#). The report of the workshop, identifying points for further consideration, will be published as a Technical Study.



Workshop : Marine Mineral Resources of Africa

International experts from the legal and scientific communities, national and regional government officials, scientists, researchers and academics met recently at a workshop in Kampala, Uganda to discuss issues associated with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS); the work of the ISA on marine mineral resources development and the protection and preservation of the marine environment from activities in the international seabed area (the Area).

The workshop was jointly organized by the Republic of Uganda and the ISA, in partnership with the African Mineral Development Centre ([AMDC](#)), the [Pew Charitable Trusts](#) and [GRID-Arendal](#); with the support of the African Union Commission ([AUC](#)) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa ([UNECA](#)) and was held in Kampala from 2-4 May 2017. It expected to raise awareness and promote engagement among African States and partners about the potential for prospecting,



*L-R: **Koji Busia**, Director AMDC; **Hussein Hassan**, Head of Trade, Dept of Trade & Industry, African Union Commission; Secretary-General **Michael Lodge** and **Kaiser de Souza**, Head, Geology & Mineral Information Systems Section, AMDC*

exploration and exploitation activities in the African continental shelf and in the adjacent international seabed area.

ISA Contributions to the Ocean Conference, 5-9 June 2017

by Marie Bourrel-McKinnon



The Authority actively contributed to the work and discussions of the UN Ocean Conference, held in New York, from 5 to 9 June 2017.

During the conference, the Authority provided inputs to several Partnership Dialogues notably for Partnership Dialogues 5 (*Increasing economic benefits to SIDS and LDCs and providing access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets*), 6 (*Increasing scientific knowledge, and developing research capacity and transfer of marine technology*) and, 7 (*Enhancing the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea*).

As a panelist in Partnership Dialogue 7, Secretary-General Michael Lodge gave an overview of the regulatory framework currently in force to regulate and manage deep-seabed related activities in the Area. He drew attention to the challenges and the needs of developing countries participating in the activities undertaken in the Area. In his presentation, Secretary-General Lodge emphasized the different partnerships

established with member States, contractors, research entities and other international organizations to make progress on this matter.

The Authority also announced a series of voluntary commitments registered at the Conference. These commitments were designed with a view to:

- Enhancing the role of women in marine scientific research through capacity-building ([#OceanAction15467](#));
- Encouraging dissemination of research results through the ISA Secretary-General award for Deep-Sea research excellence ([#OceanAction15796](#));
- Enhancing the assessment of essential ecological functions of the deep sea oceans through long-term underwater oceanographic observatories in the Area ([#OceanAction17746](#)); and
- Enhancing deep sea marine biodiversity assessment through the creation of online

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taxonomic atlases linked to deep mining activities in

ISA at the Ocean Conference ...continued



the Area ([#OceanAction17776](#)) .

Additional voluntary commitments were also registered in partnership with other agencies, notably with:

1. the [UN-DESA](#) (*Abyssal initiative for Blue Growth: advancing SDG 14 and the quest for a Blue Economy through the promotion of socio-economic benefits for developing countries, including SIDS, and increasing scientific knowledge and research capacity* ([#OceanAction16538](#)); and
2. the African Minerals Development Centre ([AMDC](#)) and [GRID-Arendal](#) (*Fostering cooperation to promote the sustainable development of Africa's deep seabed resources in support of Africa's Blue Economy; and Mapping the Blue Economy of Africa to support decision-making, investment and governance of activities undertaken on the extended continental shelf and in adjacent international seabed areas* [#OceanAction16494](#)).

During the conference, the Authority hosted an exhibition to raise awareness on its work and its contribution to the sustainable development of deep sea mineral resources in the Area for the benefit of mankind, and actively participated in three side events which attracted high-level representatives of Member States, UN Agencies, international organizations, private sector representatives and civil society organizations.

On Monday 5 June 2017, the Authority participated in a side-event organized by UN-Ocean (*Supporting the implementation of the ocean-related targets in the 2030 Agenda*) which provided the opportunity for the heads of UN agencies, and other international organizations involved in ocean affairs, to further discuss the benefits of increased cooperation and coordination.

On Thursday 8 June 2017, the Authority contributed to a side event co-organized by the governments of Zambia and Switzerland, and UN-OHRLS (*Enhancing the participation of the landlocked countries in the implementation of sustainable development goal (SDG) 14*) where the Secretary-General reiterated the importance of the potential benefits land-locked developing countries (LLDC) could gain from participating more proactively in the activities conducted in the Area.

The Authority also co-hosted a side event with Mexico, the Kingdom of Tonga, and UN-DESA, with the support of the Tonga Offshore Mining Limited (TOML) to discuss the best ways for *Advancing SDG 14 and the quest for a Blue Economy through the promotion of socio-economic benefits for developing countries, including SIDS, and increasing scientific knowledge and research capacity: perspectives on deep sea mining*.

Apart from these events, the ISA team attended more than 30 other side events during the Conference.

Interns @ ISA



Secretary-General Michael Lodge with Interns (L-R) Ms Gabriela Romero (Chile, Governmental officer in Marine Biology), Mrs Katarina Hovden (Norway, LLM in International Law) and Mr David Garzon Pico (Ecuador, researcher in Hydrography)

The Authority's [Internship programme](#) is open to young government officials specializing in fields relevant to the work of the ISA. It provides a framework which allows students and young

government officials from diverse academic backgrounds to gain exposure to the work and functions of the ISA, to enhance their educational experience and gain knowledge of the work of the ISA and its activities.

Working Experts



Marie Bourrel-McKinnon

Experts at the ISA this quarter include Jean-Louis **Thouvenin** and Ms Lakeita **Henriques** who are attached to the Office of Administrative Services and Ms Marie **Bourrel-McKinnon** with the Office of Legal Affairs.

Mr Thouvenin is assisting in the preparation of financial reports in line with the approved budget presenting the Authority's overall financial position.

Ms Henriques is involved

in conducting training sessions on the Performance Management and appraisal System (PMAS).

Ms Bourrel-McKinnon is assisting the Legal Office to provide legal advice and services on policies and human resource matters and coordinate and draft documentation in preparation for the Authority's 23rd Session to be held in Kingston. She also actively assisted the ISA staff in the preparation and organization for the UN Ocean Conference.

Calendar

JUNE

29-30 Enhancing Ocean Governance in the Caribbean Region
Trinidad and Tobago

JULY

10-21 Fourth Session of the Preparatory Committee established by General Assembly resolution 69/292 "Development of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction", Fourth session

31-4/8 Legal & Technical Commission Meeting
Kingston, Jamaica

AUGUST

7-18 International Seabed Authority 23rd Session
Kingston, Jamaica

OCTOBER

9-13 International Bar Association, Sydney

Satya N Nandan Library

Major changes in the management of the Library's information resources and collection are set to take off with the recent acquisition of an integrated library system, EOS.Web Digital suite, a cloud-based Library management services platform powered by Sirsi-Dynix. It offers several new catalogue features for library patrons. Installed in April, an on-site training session for Library and IT staff was conducted in May by EOS.Web trainer Daniel Fitz-Enz. A presentation of the system was also made to staff. This represents an important step in the Library upgrade project which commenced in 2015 with a review of the library services. The goal is to offer better services, provide access to information about our collections, and ensure that the library is successfully serving its users. Dana Bowker, Consultant, Systems-Project Manager (Information Communications Technology) has been involved with the project from inception, providing professional support throughout the evaluation, procurement and installation stages.

This is a huge task for the Library, and it will take some time to have the services streamlined for effective use, and to make the catalogue available for searching.

The Library facilities consist of a reading room with access to the collection for reference purposes, and computer terminals for e-mail and Internet usage. Services provided include information, reference and research support, as well as the distribution of the official documents and publications of the Authority. All queries should be emailed to: Library@isa.org.jm



L-R: Michelle Bond, Librarian; Jean-Baptiste Sombo, IT Manager; Dana Bowker, Consultant and Daniel Fitz-Enz, Trainer.

Staff Updates

We bid farewell to Administrative Assistant **Ching Suntaree** who retired in April. Ching worked at the ISA Liaison Office in New York for over 10 years. We also warmly welcome her replacement and new staff member, Mrs **Asenaca Navoti**. Also joining the ISA at our

head office are Mr **Christopher Brown**, Legal Officer; Mr **Sheldon Carter**, Database Manager and Ms **Zorana Maltar** as Human Resources Officer. We also congratulate **Annekah Mason** on her move to Training Coordinator under the Contractor Management Unit.

The digital newsletter is also available on our [website](http://www.isa.org.jm).

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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