



# INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY *news*

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## Call for Expressions of Interest to Conduct First Review of the Operations of the International Regime of the Area

In a decision dated 24 July 2015 (ISBA/21/A/9), the Assembly of the Authority agreed to undertake, pursuant to article 154 of the Convention, a general and systematic review of the manner in which the international regime of the Area has operated in practice.

The Review will be conducted by consultants appointed by a Review Committee based on a shortlist of qualified consultants prepared by the Secretary-General according to established procurement procedures of the Authority. It will be carried out under the oversight of a Review Committee comprised of the following members:

### Members

Ambassador Helmut Tuerk (Austria), President of the Assembly; Ambassador Peter Thomson (Fiji), President of the Council; Ambassador Tommo Monthe (Cameroon), African Group; Ambassador Lim Jong Seon (Republic of Korea), Asia-Pacific Group; Ambassador Vladimir M. Polenov (Russia), Eastern European Group; and Ambassador Eduardo J.B. Menchaca (Chile), Latin American and Caribbean Group.

### Observers

High Commissioner Mathu Theda Joyini (South Africa), Chair, African Group; Amb. Mahe Tupouniua (Tonga), Coordinator, Asia-Pacific Group; Ambassador Ariel Fernandez (Argentina), Chair, Latin American and Caribbean Group; and Ambassador Jiménez Abascal (Spain), Chair, Western European and Others Group.

An interim report, including comments by the Secretariat, the Legal and Technical

Commission and the Finance Committee of the Authority will be submitted to the Assembly for consideration at its twenty-second session in 2016. The final report, including any draft recommendations to improve the operation of the regime, will be presented by the Review Committee to the Assembly at its twenty-third session (July 2017).

The successful consultant/firm will be expected to review the manner in which the various organs and sub-organs of the Authority operate in practice and identify measures which will lead to the improvement of their future operations, including:

- (a) Reviewing the level of representation and attendance of members of the Authority at its regular annual sessions;
- (b) Analysing the performance of the Assembly as the supreme organ of the Authority establishing general policies and in the exercise of its additional powers and functions;
- (c) Analysing the performance of the Council as the executive organ of the Authority establishing specific policies to be pursued on any question or matter within the competence of the Authority and in the exercise of its additional powers and functions of the Convention;
- (d) Reviewing the structure of the secretariat and the performance of its functions as referred to in subsection D of section 4 of part XI of the Convention, including its performance of the functions of the Enterprise Agreement; and

- (e) Reviewing the performance, level of representation and attendance of members of the subsidiary organs of the Authority, analysing their current and projected workload and identifying measures that may lead to an improvement of their operations.

Interested consultants or firms are requested to express their interest by completing the [ISA.154.R.2](#) Form. The [Information sheet](#) and the [EOI flyer](#) can also be downloaded for further clarification.

The EOI remains valid until Friday 2 October, 2015.

All queries should be directed to the ISA's Office of Legal Affairs :  
Mr Sainivalati S. Navoti, Senior Legal Officer, Email: [eo@isa.org.jm](mailto:eo@isa.org.jm);  
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Assembly in session at the ISA's 21st Session in Kingston, July 2015



# ISA 21st Session Round Up

A number of decisions relating to activities in the international seabed Area, including the timeline for completion of the regulatory framework for exploitation of marine minerals, procedures and criteria for the extension of exploration contracts, financial and budgetary matters and a review of the operations of the ISA were taken by the International Seabed Authority at the conclusion of its twenty-first annual session in Kingston.

## Extension of Exploration Contracts

The Legal and Technical Commission (LTC) recommended to the Council, procedures and criteria for an extension of contracts for its adoption ([ISBA/21/C/ WP.1](#)). The document set out the form and content of an application for extension, its consideration by the LTC, processing by the Secretariat and consideration by Council. The recommendations also include a transitional provision in case an application for extension had been duly submitted but the expiry of the contract would occur after the session of the Commission at which the application was reviewed and prior to the next session of the Council. The document also includes two annexes, covering (a) the content of an application for extension, and (b) a template for a written agreement between the Authority and the Contractor.

## Exploitation Code

A revised version of the "Developing a Regulatory Framework for Mineral Exploitation in the Area", prepared by the Legal and Technical Commission (LTC) contains a [draft](#) framework for the regulation of mineral exploitation in the Area and incorporates feedback received from stakeholders. The document contains a summary of high level issues and a draft action plan/priority deliverables, a Preamble which sets out the objectives and overarching principles/purpose of the regulations, ten parts and two annexes: Part I is entitled - Introduction and use of terms and scope; Part II-Applications for approval of plans of work for exploitation in the form of contracts; Part III-Contracts for exploitation; Part IV-Protection and preservation of the marine environment; Part V-Confidentiality; Part VI-General Procedures; Part VII-Enforcement, offences and penalties; VIII-settlement of disputes; Part IX-Other mineral resource categories and Part X-Review.

The summary of high level issues include information data; activities in the Area; the transition between exploration and exploitation phases; risk assessment, evaluation and management; time limits and costs and confidentiality.

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*The digital newsletter will also be accessible on the ISA App ([iOS/Android](#)).*

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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# ISA/Global Sea Mineral Resources Training Opportunity

As part of its training programme, under its contract signed on 14 January 2013, Global Sea Mineral Resources NV (GSR) is offering a training opportunity for one fellowship from a developing State.

According to the GSR Training Programme, the two-year “Master of Marine and Lacustrine Science and Management” programme will be organized by the Faculty of Science of the Free University of Brussels, Antwerp University and Ghent University with GSR providing travel, accommodation and tuition costs.

The programme adopts a multidisciplinary approach integrating physical, chemical, geological, ecological and societal aspects and including nature conservation and sustainable development.

Applicants must hold a Bachelor’s degree in biology, biochemistry and biotechnology, chemistry, geology, geography and geomatics, bio-engineer science or environmental sciences. For other Bachelors in science, applied science and life sciences, equivalency will be evaluated based on scientific competences and skills of the students. Applicants must have a Bachelor’s degree of minimum 3 years with good overall scores (at least upper second class or equivalent) from a university or recognized equivalent. Applicants need to provide proof of sufficient knowledge of English.

ISA member States are encouraged to nominate qualified candidates, who must be from developing countries, for the training programme and should give assurance that:

- All information supplied by the candidate is complete and correct;
- The candidate will be made available at the time and for the period required for the training;
- The candidate will be placed on leave of absence with pay for the duration of the period of the training (if applicable);
- Upon successful completion of the training, the candidate will be appropriately employed in their

professional capacity or in a related field;

- The International Seabed Authority accepts no responsibility for the medical and life insurance of the trainee or costs and any other responsibilities arising from injury, illness or death that may occur to the trainee during the training period.

**Submission of nominations should be in one of the official languages of the Authority in electronic format to: [training@isa.org.jm](mailto:training@isa.org.jm) and should be received by 20 December 2015.**

Nominations must be accompanied by:

- a Nomination Form [ [docx](#) | [pdf](#) ] completed by the nominating government or institution;
- an Application Form [ [docx](#) | [pdf](#) ] completed by the candidate;
- Proof of meeting the academic, and language requirements as well as two recommendations letters.

## **Contractor Training Programme Updates:**

The first ranked candidate for the UKSRL Ph.D. programme in analysis of polymetallic nodules was Wycliff Tupiti (Solomon Islands). The alternate candidate was Felix Nshimiyimana (Rwanda). For the UKSRL Ph.D programme in marine biology, the first ranked candidate was Kirsty McQuaid (South Africa) and the alternate was Beatriz Eugenia Mejia Mercado (Mexico). For the six training opportunities offered by the Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources of the Federal Republic of Germany (BGR), the final six were Mohamed Hassan (Egypt), Chuanshun Li (China), Javier Ignacio Peroni (Argentina), Unyime Udoudo Umoh (Nigeria). Pei San Helen Wong (Singapore) and Yanina Berbeglia (Argentina).

## **Contractor Reporting Templates:**

The ISA website now sports a specific [Reporting Templates](#) page geared for contractors to download geological and environmental data templates.



## **UNDP Resident Representative for Jamaica Pays Courtesy Call**

*The new UN Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative for Jamaica, Mr Bruno Pouezat, paid a courtesy call on the Secretary-General on 22 September 2015. Mr Pouezat is a French national, who has served the United Nations in various capacities for almost 30 years.*



*Council in session at the ISA's 21st Session in Kingston, July 2015*

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Other issues are: effective protection of the environment from harmful effects; adaptive management; “internationally recognized standards” and their significance in exploitation activities; a clear division of duties and responsibilities between sponsoring State (s) and the Authority; and high-grading of mineral deposits.

The rest of the subjects are: existing best practice, learnings, co-operation and information- sharing; ISA- stakeholder consultation; mining inspectorate/ directorate/ environmental regulator; an interim framework; and whether there should be one over-arching exploitation framework. The document also contains a draft action plan/ priority deliverables : (1) a summary of priority deliverables for the next 12-18 months that the LTC will present to the Council during its 22nd session and (2) a revised action plan and prioritization, based on stakeholder comments.

The LTC has also requested the Secretariat to draft a stakeholder consultation strategy calling for broader stakeholder participation to support and engage with the Authority so that specific views and opinions could be addressed.

## **Financial and Budgetary Matters**

Member States were also urged to pay their assessed contributions to the budget on time and in full; with those in arrears to pay their outstanding contributions.

## **Endowment and Voluntary Trust Funds**

Member States were encouraged to make voluntary contributions to the Endowment Fund for Marine Scientific Research in the Area and the Voluntary Trust Fund of the Authority.

The balance of the Voluntary Trust Fund established in 2002 for the participation of members of the Finance Committee and the Legal and Technical Commission from developing

countries, stood at US\$200,082 as at 31 August 2015. The most recent contributor was Japan with US\$20,000 in August 2015.

As at 31 August 2015, the capital of the Endowment Fund (established by the Assembly in 2006 to promote and encourage the conduct of marine scientific research in the Area) stood at US\$3,455,538. Also at the same date, a total of US\$505,528 was disbursed from the interest accrued on the capital in the form of awards for projects with a total of 66 scientists/government officials from 36 developing countries benefitting from the Fund.

## **Status of contracts for exploration**

As at 1 July 2015, the Authority had approved a total of 27 Plans of Work and had entered into 15-year contracts for exploration with 22 contractors. Fourteen of those contracts were for exploration for polymetallic nodules, five contracts for exploration for polymetallic sulphides and three contracts for exploration for cobalt-rich crusts.

Five contracts (1 for sulphides, 1 for crusts and 3 for nodules) are still pending signature. Seven of the existing 15-year exploration contracts are due to come to an end between March 2016 and March 2017.

It is anticipated that [four contracts](#) for exploration with the U.K. Seabed Resources Ltd., Government of India, Companhia de Pesquisa de Recursos Minerais S.A. of Brazil, and the Cook Islands Investment Corporation will be signed during the course of the year.

## **Elections**

The Council took note of procedures and guidelines for the conduct of the next full election of the members of the LTC which will be held in July 2016 .

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# ISA and SPC Sign Memorandum of Understanding



The ISA signed a Memorandum of Understanding ([MoU](#)) with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community ([SPC](#)) on 23 July 2015 in Kingston.

In his statement to Council, Dr Kifle Kahsai of SPC said that the partnership between SPC and ISA would help ensure appropriate cooperation and coordination of measures that aim to support sustainable, strong, efficient transparent regulation and management of activities under the effective control of Pacific Island States in the Area. He said the partnership would then enable the Pacific Community to provide consistent and comprehensive assistance to all Pacific Island States who decide to engage in deep sea mining activities to promote and foster the development of strong and resilient Pacific communities within the spirit of the common heritage of mankind.

The relationship between the ISA and SPC was established in 1997 and has been steadily reinforced by the participation of Pacific island government officials from the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea and Tonga sponsored by the SPC-EU Deep Sea Mining Project to do internships at the ISA headquarters.

The MoU was signed by ISA Secretary-General Nii Allotey Odunton and Dr Kifle Kahsai on behalf of Dr Colin Tukuitonga, Director-General of the SPC.



1 L-R : Dr Kifle Kahsai and Secretary-General Odunton  
2 L-R: Pacific Island delegates who attended the signing : Taaniela Kula (Tonga) Dr Kifle Kahsai (SPC) Secretary-General Odunton, Rose Kautoke (Tonga) and Malakai Finau (Fiji). Not pictured but also in attendance were delegates from Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Papua New Guinea and the Cook Islands, Fiji, France and the United States.

## NEW PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE FOR PANAMA TO THE ISA

On 5 August 2015 His Excellency, Mr. Alexis Eduardo Sandoval Cajar presented his credentials to Mr. Nii Allotey Odunton, Secretary-General of the Authority, as the new Permanent Representative of Panama to the Authority. Ambassador Sandoval Cajar is an agronomist by

profession and commenced his career as an Evaluator of Environment Impact at the Maritime Authority of Panama, and then moved on to the Public Ministry as an Environmental Expert. He is currently Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Panama to Jamaica.



## New Observer Status



Five organizations were granted observer status in the Assembly of the Authority at its 21st Session. They are:

the World Ocean Council, a non-governmental organization based in Hawaii, United States ([ISBA/21/A/INF.1](#)); the [Sargasso Sea Commission](#) based in Bermuda; the [Fish Reef Project](#) based in California, United States; the [Pacific Community](#) in place of Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission, now subsumed by the Community and the [International Dialogue on Underwater Munitions](#) based in The Hague, The Netherlands. Click [here](#) for a full list of Observers to the ISA.



Helmut Tuerk



Peter Thomson

Members of the LTC are elected for five years. Ambassador Helmut Tuerk (Austria) was elected president of the Assembly on behalf of the Western European and Others Group. Cameroon (African Group), Russian Federation (Eastern European Group), Chile (Latin America and Caribbean States Group) and the Republic of Korea (Asia-Pacific Group) were elected vice-Presidents. The Assembly also elected two new members to the Finance Committee - [Madimi Koteswara Rao](#) (India) and [Ye Minn Thein](#) (Myanmar) following the resignations of their compatriots. Their terms will end on 31 December 2016. Ambassador Peter Thomson (Fiji) was elected president of the Council on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Group. Brazil (Latin American and Caribbean Group), Germany (Western European and Others Group), Nigeria (African Group) and Poland (Eastern European Group) were elected vice-Presidents. The Council also elected four new members to the Legal and Technical Commission (LTC). [Théophile Ndougssa Mbarga](#) (Cameroon), [Montserrat González Carrillo](#) (Chile), [Marzia Rovere](#) (Italy) and [Natsumi Kamiya](#) (Japan). They will serve the remainder of the five-year term of their compatriots who have resigned. Their terms will end on 31 December 2016).

## ISA Council Approves Exploration Application

The ISA Council, acting on [recommendations](#) of the LTC, [approved](#) the plan of work for exploration for polymetallic nodules submitted by China Minmetals Corporation (CMC) and requested the Secretary-General to issue a contract.

The CMC, which is sponsored by the People's Republic of China, submitted its application to

the Secretary-General on 8 August 2014.

The region under application covers a surface area of 72,745 km<sup>2</sup> within the reserved areas in the Clarion-Clipperton Fracture Zone of the Pacific Ocean and the area consists of eight blocks, which are distributed across the Fracture Zone.

## ISA at European Commission, DG MARE

ISA Deputy to the Secretary-General and Legal Counsel, Michael Lodge made a presentation to European Commission officials

on the work of the ISA in Brussels recently. His presentation outlined the current work priorities of the ISA with

particular focus on the preparation of the exploitation code and the need for work on environmental management.



Brussels, 30/09/2015

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### NOVEMBER

- 5-6 *Seminar on the Environmental, Legal and Technical Challenges for Deep Sea Mining, Santiago, Chile*
- 9-13 *Ecology and Conservation of Oceanic Islands and Seamounts, Universidad Católica del Norte (Coquimbo, Chile)*
- 16-20 [MIDAS](#) Annual Meeting, Sintra, Portugal

### DECEMBER

- 8 *UN Law of the Sea Item General Assembly*
- 9-10 *Offshore & Deep Sea Mining [Conference](#), London*
- 14-17 [Workshop](#) on Taxonomic Methods and Standardization of Meiofauna in the CCZ, Ghent, Belgium

## Article 84(2) - Charts and Lists of Geographical Coordinates

*The Secretary-General of the Authority is urging all coastal States to deposit charts, lists of geographical coordinates of points and, in the case of those indicating the outer limit lines of the continental shelf, a copy of such charts or lists with the Authority as soon as possible after the establishment of the outer limit lines of their continental shelf, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention. The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (the Convention) defines "the Area" as "the seabed and subsoil thereof beyond the limits of national jurisdiction". The establishment of the exact geographic limits of the Area depends on the establishment*

*by States of the limits of their national jurisdiction, including the delineation of the continental shelf extending beyond 200 nautical miles from the baseline of the territorial sea. As at 25 September 2015, Australia, Ireland, Mexico, Niue and the Philippines have deposited [Charts and Lists](#) with the Authority.*