



INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY *news*

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ISA AND COMPANHIA DE PESQUISA DE RECURSOS MINERAIS OF BRAZIL SIGN EXPLORATION CONTRACT

The International Seabed Authority and Companhia De Pesquisa de Recursos Minerais of Brazil (CPRM) have signed a 15-year contract for exploration for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts in the Rio Grande Rise in the South Atlantic Ocean.

The Contract was signed Monday, 9 November 2015, in Brasília, by the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority, Nii Allotey Odunton, and the Director-President of CPRM, Manoel Barretto da Rocha Neto in the presence of Secretário De Políticas E Programas De Pesquisa E Desenvolvimento Do Ministério De Ciência E Tecnologia, Jailson Bittencourt; Subsecretário-General Interino De Meio Ambiente, Energia, Ciência E Tecnologia Do Ministério Das Relações Exteriores, Ministro Reinaldo José De Almeida Salgado; Secretário Da Comissão Interministerial Para Os Recursos Do Mar, Contra Almirante Da Marinha Do Brasil, José Augusto Vieira Da Cunha De Menezes; and Secretário De Geologia,

Mineração E Transformação Mineral Do Ministério De Minas E Energia, Carlos Nogueira Da Costa Junior.

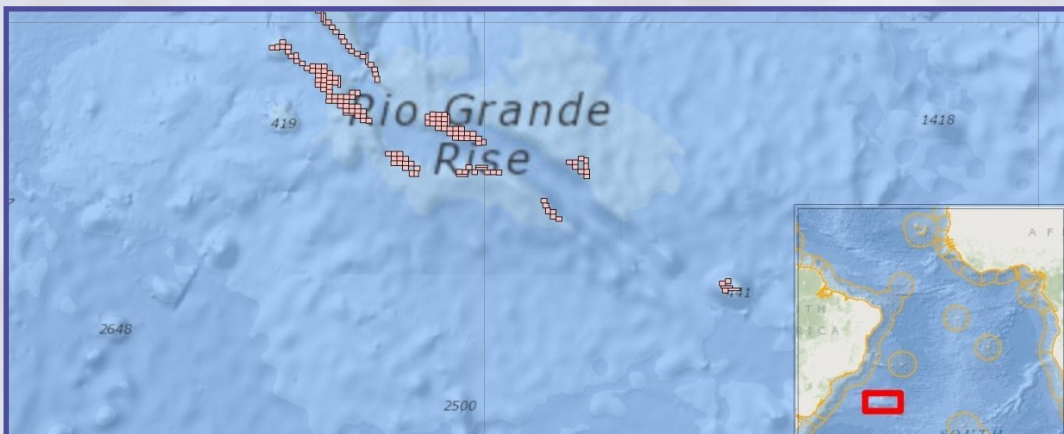
The application for the exploration contract was approved by the Council of the International Seabed Authority on 21 July 2014.

The area allocated to the Contractor on the Rio Grande Rise is composed of 150 blocks, each with an area of 20 square kilometres. Each block is rectangular or square in shape. The blocks are grouped into eight clusters, each containing from five to 56 contiguous blocks. All the blocks are located within an area not exceeding more than 550 kilometres by 550 kilometres. Seven clusters lie on the summit of the Alpha sector of RGR. One cluster is located south-east of Alpha, on a seamount named Bravo.

This is the first Contract for exploration in the Rio Grande Rise and the fourth contract for exploration for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts which has been signed with the Authority.



ISA Secretary-General Nii Allotey Odunton, and the Director-President of CPRM, Manoel Barretto da Rocha Neto



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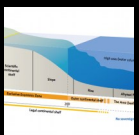
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In Brief...

- **Chile Sensitization Seminar**
The ISA and the Government of Chile co-hosted a [Sensitization Seminar](#) at the offices of the Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores in Santiago from 5-6 November 2015. The Seminar brought together experts from the international legal and scientific community with national and regional government officials, scientists, researchers and academics to discuss scientific research and marine mineral development. A Briefing Paper on the seminar will be published in due course.
- **Secretary-General Nii Allotey Odunton spoke at the 70th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations; Agenda Item 74(a) Oceans and Law of the Sea.** (8 December 2015). Read his [Statement here](#).
- **Meiofauna Taxonomic Workshop in Belgium**
The Authority is hosting a taxonomic workshop on meiofauna at the University of Ghent, Belgium, from 14-17 December, 2015. All presentations together with the outcomes at the workshop will be uploaded to the [website](#).
- **The Legal and Technical Commission (LTC) will meet 22 February to 4 March 2016 in Kingston.** All meeting documents will be uploaded to the website as they come to hand.

Panama Presents Credentials

On 5 August 2015 Ambassador 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.



KLRCA Director Pays Courtesy Call



Datuk Professor Sundra Rajoo, Director of Malaysia's Kuala Lumpur Centre for Arbitration ([KLRCa](#)) paid a courtesy call on

the Authority on Tuesday 10 November 2015. He was received by Sainivalati Navoti, Senior Legal Officer of ISA.

Professor Rajoo shared with the Authority, information about the KLRCa and proposed the possibilities for future collaboration in the following areas: the possible use of the KLRCa premises in Kuala Lumpur as

venue and place of arbitration for disputes arising out of contracts relating to the exploration of seabed minerals in the Area; the use (free of charge) of the same premises and facilities for the organisation of the Authority's conferences and seminars or education training, if any, conducted in the Asian-Pacific region; and the mutual exchange of knowledge, experiences, contacts and other relevant information that may support the objectives of both Organisations.

The KLRA is a non-profit, independent international body established in 1978 under the auspices of the Asia-African Legal Consultative Organisation (AALCO).

The digital newsletter is also accessible on the ISA App ([iOS/Android](#)) and on its [website](#).

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 Endowment Fund Sponsors Travel Bursaries to Attend 14th Deep Sea Biology Symposium

The International Seabed Authority's Endowment Fund sponsored travel bursaries for six scientists from seven different developing nations (Brazil, Chile, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, Argentina, India and China) to attend the 14th Deep-Sea Biology Symposium in Aveiro, Portugal from 30th August to 4th September 2015.

In a report submitted by [INDEEP](#) to the ISA, Dr Maria Baker, Project Manager, Bursary Awardees said INDEEP received 24 applications for the Travel Bursary Awards which were administered and reviewed by the INDEEP office and INDEEP

Committee Members. The bursary provided travel and accommodation for eight scientists, Two of the awardees (Baban Ingole from India and Yadong Zhou from China) were not able to travel which resulted in only six bursary awardees attending the Symposium.

The awardees were: Ignacio Chiesa (Argentina); Eulogio Soto (Chile); Kerry Sink (South Africa); Maurício Shimabukuro (Brazil); Judith Gobin (Trinidad and Tobago) and Naití Morales Serrano (Chile).

The full report by Dr Baker which also includes individual reports by the awardees is available online on the ISA's Endowment Fund [web page](#).



Bursary Awardees (L-R): Ignacio Chiesa (Argentina); Eulogio Soto (Chile); Kerry Sink (South Africa); Maurício Shimabukuro (Brazil); Judith Gobin (Trinidad and Tobago) and Naití Morales Serrano (Chile).

Requests for Extension of Four Exploration Contracts

Following the Decision of the Council of 25 July 2015 relating to procedures and criteria for the extension of contracts for exploration (ISBA/21/C/19*), four requests for a five-year extension of a contract for exploration for polymetallic nodules have been submitted so far, respectively by:

- Yuzhmorgeologiya, sponsored by the Government of Russia (on 28 September 2015);
- Interoceanmetal Joint Organization, sponsored by the Governments of Bulgaria, Cuba, Czech Republic, Poland, Russian Federation and Slovakia (on 28 September 2015);
- The Government of the Republic of Korea (on 20 October 2015);
- China Ocean Mineral Resources Research and Development, sponsored by the Government of the People's Republic of China (on 19 November 2015).

Due Publicity : Deposit of Charts under Article 84(2)

On the 15 October 2015, ISA Secretary General Nii Odunton received from France copies of the charts and lists of geographical coordinates in reference to the outer limit lines of the continental shelf off Martinique, Guadeloupe, Guyana, New Caledonia and Kerguelen Islands.

The depositing of such charts are pursuant to article 84(2) of the Convention where coastal states are urged to deposit such charts or lists of coordinates 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.

As of 1 December 2015, five member States (Australia, Ireland, Mexico, Niue and Philippines) have made such deposits. All deposits can be viewed [online](#).

ISA Contractor Training Programme Opportunities

ISA continues its call for applications from candidates from developing countries to attend various ISA Contractor training programmes. The programmes are pursuant to the terms of the contracts for exploration between the contractors and the International Seabed Authority.

ISA/Nauru Ocean Resources Inc (NORI) 2015

Two training places are available to attend an Environmental Planning Workshop in Ghent, Belgium on 11-12 December 2015

Deadline: 20 November 2015

[Full Details](#)

ISA/Global Sea Mineral Resources NV (GSR) 2016

One fellowship for a 2-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

Deadline: 20 December 2015

[Full Details](#)

ISA/China Ocean Mineral Resources Research and Development Association (COMRA) 2016

Five training opportunities in its At Sea Training Programme onboard Hai Yang Liu Hao research vessel



Deadline: 20 December 2015

[Full Details](#)

ISA/Japan Oil, Gas, and Metals National Corporation (JOGMEC) 2016

Five training opportunities in its At-Sea Training Programme between May and June 2016

Deadline: 31 December 2015

[Full Details](#)

Chinese Delegation Visits ISA



On 19 November 2015, a six-member Chinese delegation headed by Mr Lu Hao, Chairman of Environmental Protection and Resources Conservation Committee of National People's Congress of China, visited the headquarters of the International Seabed Authority.

During the meeting with the ISA Secretary-General Mr Nii Allotey Odunton, Mr Lu Hao briefed on the progress on the China legislation on deep seabed resources exploration and exploitation, which is scheduled for a second reading in April 2016. In welcoming the delegation, Secretary-General Odunton expressed his appreciation with the cooperation

between the Chinese Government and the Authority and requested the Chinese delegation to submit such a legislation following its adoption. The Chinese delegation also held discussions with officials of the Authority's Office of Legal Affairs and Office of the Environmental Monitoring and Resources on legal and environmental issues in respect of the draft Chinese national legislation.



*Wishing our readers a
Blessed Christmas Season
and a Prosperous New Year*