

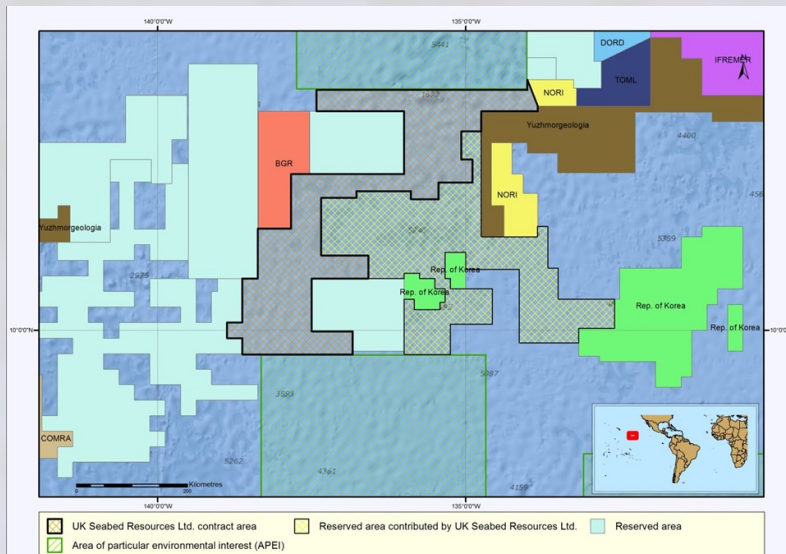


INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY *news*

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UKSRL Signs Second Exploration Contract with the International Seabed Authority

The allocated area (outlined in black) covers a total surface of 74,919 km² in the eastern part of the Clarion-Clipperton Fracture Zone (CCZ).



ISA Secretary-General Nii Odunton and UKSRL Managing Director Linda Reiners



Contract signatories with legal representatives Gwénaëlle Le Gurun (back left) of the ISA and Jennifer Warren of UKSRL

The International Seabed Authority and the UK Seabed Resources Limited (UKSRL) have signed a 15-year contract for exploration for polymetallic nodules in the eastern part of the Clarion-Clipperton Fracture Zone (CCZ).

The contract was signed Tuesday, 29 March 2016, in New York, by the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority, Nii Allotey Odunton, and Linda Reiners, UKSRL Managing Director, on behalf of the Chief Executive of UKSRL Peter Ruddock.

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 74,919 square kilometres (km²) in the eastern part of the (CCZ) as shown in the map above.

This is the fifteenth contract issued by the Authority for exploration for polymetallic nodules and the second contract for exploration by UKSRL.

UKSRL signed its first exploration contract in February 2013 for a contract area of approximately 116,000 km² also located in the eastern part of the CCFZ.

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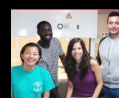
Sensitization Seminar

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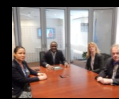
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL

1 *110th ASIL Annual Meeting (American Society of International Law) on the law of outer space and deep seabed, Washington DC*

15-16 *Hamburg International Environmental Law Conference*

MAY

29-1 Jun *Fifth International Symposium on Scientific and Legal Aspects of the Regimes of the Continental Shelf and the Area, Nanjing, China*

JUNE

13-17 *United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, New York*

20-24 *Meeting of States Parties to the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea Twenty-sixth Meeting, New York*

27-28 *40th Annual Conference of the Centre for Oceans Law and Policy, New York*



Presentation of Credentials



His Excellency, NIU Qingbao newly appointed Ambassador of China to Jamaica, presented his credentials to the Secretary-General of the Authority on Thursday, 4 February 2016, as the new Permanent Representative of China to the International Seabed Authority. Ambassador NIU began his career in 1989 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Beijing as Attaché in the Department of North American and Ocean Affairs. Whilst working at the Ministry he also received periodic overseas postings to Auckland, Australia, and Mumbai. In 2008 he was appointed Vice Mayor of the Nankai District, Tianjin Municipality. Ambassador NIU arrived in Jamaica in late 2015 to take up his appointment as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Jamaica.

University of West Indies Students Visit ISBAHQ



Students from the University of the West Indies "The Profession of Interpreting Course" visiting the ISA Offices and meeting with Secretary-General Odunton

Students from the University of West Indies *Profession of Interpreting Course* recently visited ISA headquarters and met with the Secretary-General.

The students and their lecturer, Sandra Hamilton also visited the Jamaica Conference Centre and did a simulation exercise in the interpreting booths.

The students speak Jamaican Creole, Chinese, Spanish and Portuguese.

The University of the West Indies is a public university in Jamaica that serves 18 English-speaking countries and territories in the Caribbean

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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SELECTION OF CANDIDATES FOR CONTRACTOR TRAINING PROGRAMME

On 3 March 2016, the ISA Legal and Technical Commission selected first-ranked and alternate candidates for the Global Sea Mineral Resources NV (GSR), China Ocean Mineral Resources Research and Development Association (COMRA) and Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation (JOGMEC) training programmes. In the event that any of the first-ranked candidates do not accept the training offer or is unable to take part at short notice, the alternates will be contacted in the order of ranking.

The candidate for one place in the [GSR](#) Master of Marine and Lacustrine Science and Management programme which starts in September 2016, organized by the Faculty of Science of Free University of Brussels, Antwerp University and Ghent University is as follows:

First-ranked candidate: Ms. Carolina M.L. Camargo (Brazil)

Alternates:

1. Mr. David Fenner Moorcroft (South Africa)
2. Mr. Thomas E.T. Whiddon (Cook Islands)

The five candidates for the [COMRA](#) at-sea training on-board the *Hai Yang Liu Hao* research vessel cruise during August to November 2016 (re-scheduled from July to September 2016) are divided into three groups: 2 places for geological survey methods and samples processing technology, 2 places for environmental survey methods and samples processing technology and 1 place for geophysical survey methods. They are as follows:

Group A -Geological survey

First-ranked candidates: Mr. Noah Awuntigi (Ghana), Mr. Johnmark Isarua Homu (Papua New Guinea)

Alternates:

1. Ms. Sutharat Srirod (Thailand)
2. Mr. Batbayar Batkhuu (Mongolia)
3. Mr. Bamidele Samuel Oresajo (Nigeria)
4. Mr. Inkiba Batoko Arsène (D.R. Congo)
5. Mr. Thet Naing Win (Myanmar)
6. Mr. Jeff Baya Nshimba (D.R. Congo)
7. Ms. Martine Joseph (Haiti)

Group B - Environmental survey

First-ranked candidates: Mr. Fidele Kouilga Yameogo (Burkina Faso); Ms. Alanna Smith (Cook Islands)

Alternates:

1. Mr. Gor Gevorgyan (Armenia)
2. Mr. Naftaly Nyakundi (Kenya)
3. Mr. Christopher Esquea (Dominica Republic)
4. Mr. Tiago Maximiano (Brazil)
5. Ms. Nadine Fatou Quattara (Burkina Faso)
6. Mr. Jhonsley Eurica Romain (Haiti)

Group C - Geophysical survey

First-ranked candidate: Ms. Elizabeth A. Pérez González (Mexico)

Alternates:

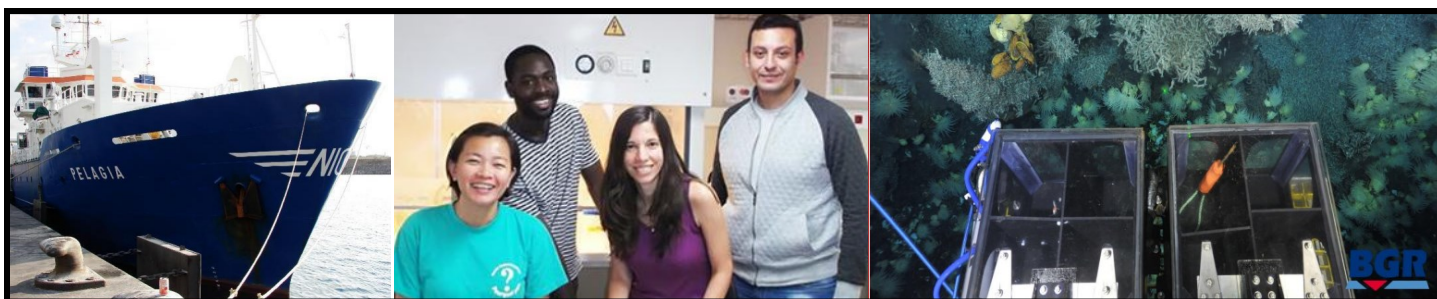
1. Mr. Mohamed Moawed Abou-Mahmoud (Egypt)
2. Mr. Newdeskarl Saint Fleur (Haiti)
3. Ms. Ana Clara Coni Mello (Brazil)
4. Mr. Mike Ken (Papua New Guinea)
5. Mr. Django Mady Coulibaly (Mali)

The five candidates selected for [JOGMEC](#) will work onboard a research cruise vessel between May and June in 2016 for a duration of 40 days to focus on environmental survey techniques for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts. They are:

First-ranked candidates: Mr. Jean Marie Bope Bope Lapwong (D. R. Congo), Mr. Mohamed Ahmed Moheb Eldesouky (Egypt), Mr. Viliame Momoivalu (Fiji), Ms. Preeyaphat Kongthaworn (Thailand), Mr. Luis Polido de Souza (Brazil)

Alternates

1. Mr. Hai Trinh Le (Vietnam)
2. Mr. Solomon F. Dan (Nigeria)
3. Ms. Mamatha Singanahalli Shivaramu (India)
4. Mr. Wael Abdelwahab Ibrahim (Egypt)
5. Mr. Anh The Tran (Vietnam)
6. Mr. Ahmed Mohamed Gad (Egypt)
7. Mr. Chon Thanh Vu (Vietnam)
8. Mr. Capter John Tubo (Philippines)
9. Mr. K M Azam Chowdhury (Bangladesh)
10. Mr. Zolboo Ganbaatar (Mongolia)
11. Mr. Haitham Said Al Farqani (Oman)
12. Mr. Abdulkadir Mohamed Farah (Somali)



BGR 2015 Cruise. Trainees from L-R are Helen Pei (Singapore), Emmanuel Quayson (Ghana), Yanina Berbegelia (Argentina), and Mohamed Hassaan (Egypt)

ISA UNDERTAKES FIRST ANNUAL REVIEW

By Sainivalati Navoti, Senior Legal Officer

In July 2015, at the 21st session of the Authority, the Assembly decided to undertake a general and systemic review of the manner in which the international regime of the Area has operated in practice.

Article 154 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982 (UNCLOS) mandates the Assembly of the Authority to undertake the review and that in light of such reviews, the Assembly may take, or recommend other organs to take measures which will lead to the improvement of the operation of the regime. The review is being carried out under the oversight of a Review Committee comprising the Presidents of the Assembly and Council of the 21st session. The President of the Assembly will remain a member of the Committee until the completion of the review. The Chairs of the regional groups are also given the opportunity to participate as observers in the Committee. The Assembly also decided that the review be conducted by consultants appointed by the review committee, based on a short list of qualified consultants prepared by the Secretary

-General according to the established procurement procedures of the Authority.

After a competitive selection process, the Review Committee appointed the UK consultancy firm Seascope Consultants Ltd to conduct the review. Seascope's approach towards the conduct of the review involves the widely used institutional and organisational assessment model that enables assessment of performance based on key drivers. Key inputs to the review includes intensive reviews of the Authority's official documents, conduct of workshops, issuance of questionnaires among member States, contractors and observers and the conduct of structured interviews with key stakeholders using a regional approach.

In March 2016, Seascope's consultants also conducted interviews with representatives of the member States of the Authority.

The Assembly will receive an interim report on the review during its 22nd Session in July 2016 with a final report to be submitted in July 2017 at the 23rd Session of the Authority.



A: L-R, Tamara Thomas (Trinidad & Tobago), Ambassador Eden Charles (Trinidad & Tobago), Vikki Gunn (Seascope) and Wylie Spicer (Seascope); B: Thembile Joyini (South Africa) with the Seascope consultants; C: Ambassador Peter Thomson (Fiji) with the Seascope consultants

ISA Legal and Technical Commission Meets at First Session for 2016

The Legal and Technical Commission met at the ISA headquarters between 22 February to 4 March 2016. It was the first of the two meetings held annually in Kingston.

Mr Christian Reichert (Germany) was elected Chair and Ms Elva Escobar (Mexico) was elected Vice Chair.

Agenda items included the consideration of the training programmes under the plans of work for

exploration and the selection of candidates for the various training programmes offered by contractors for 2016. [\[See Release\]](#)

A priority item on the agenda included the consideration of the six applications received from the contractors for extensions of contracts for exploration. The six are InterOceanmetal Joint Organization, Yuzhmorgeologiya, Government of the Republic of Korea,

Ifremer, Deep Ocean Resources Development of Japan and China Ocean Minerals Research and Development Association.

Other items included the consideration of draft regulations for exploitation and other matters referred to the Commission by the Council.

The Commission will meet again in July 2016 prior to the Authority's 22nd Session.

Meetings...



Deep Sea Mining Conference, Poland

ISA Secretary-General Nii Odunton was invited to visit Poland and the Czech Republic earlier this year as keynote speaker at a conference on *Merging Business Models and Technology Development in Deep Sea Mining* in Poland in January 2016. Secretary-General Odunton also visited the Interoceanmetal Joint Organization (IOM) headquarters in Szczecin and met with its Director-General, Tomasz Abramowski. He also met with Deputy Minister Martin Smolek of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic and discussed the current activities of the ISA, conservation of marine biological diversity during prospecting and possible future mining of seabed minerals.

Photo Captions: A. Secretary-General Odunton; B. with Deputy Minister Martin Smolek; C. with Tomasz Abramowski; D. with Yuri Kazmin (Photos courtesy of @IOM, @MZV)



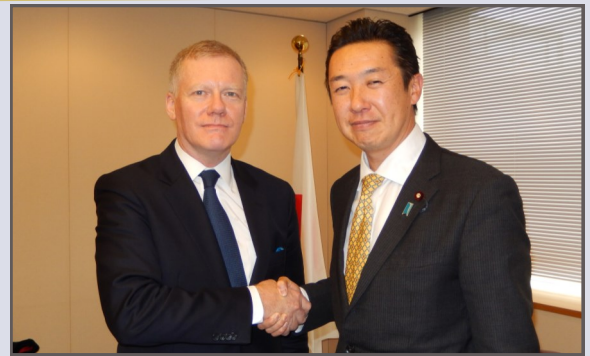
Centre for International Law (CIL) Workshop, Singapore

Deputy to the Secretary-General and Legal Counsel, Michael Lodge was a speaker at the CIL workshop in Singapore from 3-4 February 2016. The workshop was held to prepare participants for the Preparatory Commission's first session as an internationally legal binding instrument under the 1982 UNCLOS to deal with the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity areas beyond national jurisdiction. [[Executive Summary](#)]

Above: Speakers at Session 3 of the CIL Workshop. L-R Gregory French, DEAT Australia (Moderator), Edward Kleverlaan, IMO; Michael Lodge, ISA; Stefan Asmundsson, NEAFC and Kristina Gjerde, IUCN

Second International Symposium on the Law of the Sea, Japan

The Deputy to the Secretary-General and Legal Counsel, Michael Lodge was also a speaker at the Japan [Symposium](#) on International Law for the Resources of the Sea, Scientific Advances, Preservation of Environment, and Equity in Benefit Sharing; held 16-17 February 2016. Mr Lodge's presentation on developing a regulatory regime for deep seabed mining discussed the progress made by the International Seabed Authority to articulate a comprehensive legal regime for the exploitation of marine minerals from the seabed beyond national jurisdiction.



Above: Michael Lodge, ISA with Hitoshi Kikawada, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Japan at the Law of Sea Symposium

Group of Friends of the Oceans and Seas (GoFOS) Briefing, New York



ISA Secretary-General Nii A Odunton briefed members of the Group of Friends of the Oceans and Seas (GoFOS) at a recent meeting held in New York on the 10 March 2016. Secretary-General Odunton's presentation was

on Deep Seabed Mining: The New Frontier and its Challenges. GoFOS is made up of United Nations Ambassadors dedicated to ensuring the well-being of oceans and seas.

Secretary-General Odunton briefing the Group of Friends of the Oceans and Seas, New York [Photo by Magnus Lennartsson @mlennartsson]



Participants at the Chile Seminar

ISA Holds Sensitization Seminar in Chile

The ISA Sensitization Seminar on the work of the Authority was held between 5-6 November, 2015 in Santiago, Chile. The seminar was organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile, the Embassy of Chile in Jamaica and the ISA.

The seminar is the 10th in the series of sensitization seminars convened by the ISA and the second in South America. Sensitization seminars have been held in Indonesia, Brazil, Nigeria, Spain, Jamaica, Mexico, New York (2) and South Africa.

The seminars are requested by ISA member States and aim to bring together experts from the legal and scientific community with national and regional government officials, scientists, researchers and academics to discuss scientific, legal and environmental research on marine minerals and improve regional cooperation in scientific research in marine development.

Workshop on Taxonomic Standardization of Meiofauna in the Clarion-Clipperton Fracture Zone (CCFZ)



Workshop Participants

A workshop on taxonomic standardization of meiofauna in the CCFZ was held in Ghent, Belgium from 14-17 December, 2015. It is the third of the ISA series of taxonomic exchange workshops on the standardization of the biological component of environmental baseline data in exploration areas.

The first of the series of workshops was focused on the evaluation and difficulties in assessing macrofaunal biodiversity in the deep sea and convened at the Centre for Marine Biodiversity of the Senckenberg Institute in Germany, on June 10-15, 2013. The second workshop focused on the evaluation and difficulties in assigning macrofaunal diversity to the deepsea of the CCFZ and was convened at the East Sea Research Institute of the Korea Institute of Ocean Science and Technology (KIOST) in the

Republic of Korea, 23-30 November 2014.

The workshop brought together international deep-sea meiofauna experts with representatives of ISA contractors to facilitate the establishment of a standardized taxonomy for the baseline studies of meiofauna. The workshop was attended by 9 taxonomic experts and 24 contractor representatives and comprised a series of presentations on taxonomic knowledge in general, nematode, harpacticoid copepod, kinorhyncha, foraminifera, loricifera and tardigrada, DNA barcoding and meta-barcoding, environmental DNA sequencing by the experts including hands-on sessions where representatives of contractors and experts exchanged and discussed the collected specimens.

Workshop recommendations will be tabled at the next meeting of the Legal and Technical Commission in July 2016.