



Seabed Minerals Authority
Runanga Takere Moana

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Tuesday 15 August.

COOK ISLANDS
ISA ASSEMBLY INTERVENTION
TO THE 23RD SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEABED
AUTHORITY, KINGSTON, JAMAICA,

By Paul Lynch- Head of Delegation, Cook Islands Seabed Minerals Commissioner

Thank our generous host nation, Jamaica. And on her 55th birthday.

Item 8- Annual report of the Secretary- General

1. Kia orana. Congratulations to the Secretary General on his first Report which is very comprehensive and clear. With the support of the over worked Secretariat.
2. Our nation the Cook Islands view ourselves a Polynesian Maori, large Ocean state, with an EEZ of almost 2 million km² in the heart of the South Pacific.
3. We are also a Contract holder in the CCZ, signed in 2016, by the Cook Islands Investment Corporation.
4. We also blessed to have a large and unique deep seabed Manganese Nodule resource, estimated at 10 billion tonnes, in our own EEZ.
5. Today we wish to invite delegates to a brief Side Event at 2.15/30 in Caucus Room 4, being a 20 minutes video of the history of Nodules in the Cook Islands to the present day where we have in 2015 opened our own Seabed Licencing system and in 2016 signed our own Contract with the ISA.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

6. Align with the comments of the esteemed delegate from Nauru.
7. **Page 18- XVI- B.** Support the completion on the draft Exploitation Regulations with utmost care and necessary progress. With particular regard to the principles of accountability, transparency and clarity in issues of environmental concern
8. **Page 24. XVI C.** The Cook Islands takes its obligations to the ISA and international community very seriously, in order to exercise effective exercise control over activity under our jurisdiction and control, as required by UNCLOS. This is not just from an economic angle, but also from the critical environmental sustainability perspective.

9. The Cook Islands have been active in this legislative and regulatory framework development with the assistance of our government and numerous development partners.
10. Our national ISA related law has been drafted and submitted to Crown Law Office.
11. The review of our national Policy, related to the ISA related draft Bill, is now being undertaken, especially due to new relationships under the ISA contract and our new Marae Moana Act (Marine Park) passed in June 2017.
12. We wish to assure the Council, that our national ISA related Act will be passed, well before and Exploration activity takes place in our Licenced Area, in collaboration with our partners and stakeholders.

Page 24. XX- Capacity Building and training.

13. Thank you to the LTC, Contractors, Council and ISA Secretariat for their assistance in promoting and facilitating these capacity building training opportunities for developing nations.
14. Encourage more developing and landlocked nations to take up these opportunities.
15. 14 for Asia Pacific Group. Recent GSR survey in the CCZ where a Cook Islands engineer took place.
16. Marine Biologist accepted on COMRA in 2016 survey. But had to postpone as she has conflicting duties as a young national sportswoman and now as our new Miss Cook Islands to the Miss Universe competition in 2017.
17. We also have a young Cook Islands Marine Engineer selected to participate in the upcoming German BGR survey in the Indian Ocean. May I note, that this selected candidate has encountered visa difficulties related to our New Zealand passport and the long South African immigration requirements. May I ask Secretariat to bear in mind such transiting issues and allow more time for future candidate selections, due to visa and related issues.

Finally,

18. Page 21 XVII B- Sensitization seminars

19. Given the ISA Secretary General's comments that there are "no funds", Member nation should undertake national awareness building activities related to spreading information about the ISA and UNCLOS as part of our duty under the principle of "common heritage of mankind". Because how can our various communities participate in the ISA and know about these benefits, if they don't know about them. For example, the Cook Islands disseminates ISA and DSM information as widely as possible in our nation and communities.
20. Our Government and domestic authorities supports that work. We also require external Contractors to cooperate in areas of outreach and training and data sharing.

Lastly,

21. INVITATION- I wish to reiterate an Invitation to Delegates to view this new Seabed Minerals Authority 20 minute Video in an up-coming ISA Side meeting today at 2.15pm after the IOL Side event at 1.15pm.
22. Or please just request from me a new USB Pen from the Seabed Minerals Authority, with the Video and 11 relevant Seabed Minerals Authority documents, relating to Laws and regulations and the Exploration Licencing process.

Kia manuia and best wishes,
Paul Lynch
Commissioner

COMPLIMENTARY USB PEN

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1. NEW VIDEO- COOK ISLANDS NODULES TO 2017.
2. SBM ACT (2009)
3. SBM AMENDMENT (2015)
4. SBM REGULATIONS (2015)
5. 2011 COOK ISLANDS SBM RESEARCH PAPER
6. RESERVE AREA APPLICATION AREA (MAP)
7. APPLICATION PROCESS GUIDELINES
8. COST BENEFITS ANALYSIS- NODULES IN CI EEZ
9. APPLICATION PROCESS DIAGRAM
10. CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT FOR DATA PACKAGE
11. 3D VIDEO- BATHYMETRY OF NODULE ZONES CI EEZ
12. 2016 NODULES RESEARCH BOOKLET- GERALD McCORMACK NHT.



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