Legal and Technical Commission

Selection of candidates for a training programme proposed by l'Institut français de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer

Recommendation by the Legal and Technical Commission

1.   The Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority received a training proposal from l'Institut français de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer (Ifremer) on 8 February 2016, submitted in the context of its exploration contract for polymetallic nodules. According to the proposal, Ifremer is offering five internships to candidates from developing States to participate in a five-day taxonomy workshop, to be held in Brest, France, from 27 June to 1 July 2016, as a part of the annual summer schools organized by the marine research institution LabexMer.

2.   The objective of the workshop is for the candidates to gain experience and learn the basic theoretical and practical skills required to process samples and identify taxa of the benthic meiofauna and macrofauna. In addition, a session will be dedicated to the deep-sea fauna associated with the polymetallic nodule fields. As a minimum requirement, the candidates should hold a Bachelor of Science in marine environment or a three-year technical degree in marine environment or equivalent. Direct experience in taxonomy is desirable. The candidates must also be proficient in either French or English, both written and spoken. Ifremer will provide the international airfares (a return ticket in economy class), accommodation, local transportation, if required, and meals for the duration of the workshop.

3.   The training opportunities were made known to the members of the Authority for the purpose of nominating candidates and advertised on the website of the Authority and on social media. A total of 76 applications from 32 countries were received by the deadline of 15 March.

4.   At its meetings in February, the Legal and Technical Commission appointed a training subgroup to recommend candidates for training opportunities. It was agreed that the subgroup would work with the secretariat between sessions to identify appropriate candidates for the Ifremer training programme. The recommendations

by the subgroup were to be submitted to the Commission for approval by e-mail or other electronic means.

5.   On the basis of the preliminary evaluation of all applications by the secretariat, the subgroup reviewed the qualifications of all candidates and exchanged views by e-mail between 5 and 25 April. The selection of candidates by the subgroup was based on the qualification criteria provided by Ifremer, in particular language proficiency, educational background, experience in taxonomy, the potential career development of candidates, the reasons for seeking training, the expected benefit to the candidates' countries and other merits reflected in the applications. In addition to those considerations, due regard was paid to equitable geographical distribution and gender balance.

6.   On 28 April, the subgroup recommended to the full Commission, by e-mail, that 5 first-ranked candidates and 10 alternates be selected for the training programme. Should any of the first-ranked candidates not accept or be unable to attend the training programme on short notice, the alternates could be contacted in the order of their ranking. The following candidates were recommended:

First-ranked candidates

Aristide Sorel Tseng Ngongla (Cameroon)

Dharmendra Pratap Singh (India)

Lorelie A. Burgos (Philippines)

Anabela Taverna (Argentina)

Beatriz Eugenia Mejia (Colombia)

Alternates

1.   Bin Qi Gan (Singapore)

2.   Juliana Lopes Segadilha (Brazil)

3.   Abdul-Rahman Dirisu (Nigeria)

4.   Dongsheng Zhang (China)

5.   Huong Thi Lan Tu (Viet Nam)

6.   Shagnika Das (India)

7.   Rachel Bolufe (Cuba)

8.   Mostafa Mahmoud (Egypt)

9.   Shivanagouda Sanagoudra (India)

10.   Sarvanen Curpen (Mauritius)

7.   On 5 May, the recommendation of the subgroup was approved by the full Commission.

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