



Legal and Technical Commission

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Agenda item 5

Status of the implementation of training programmes under plans of work for exploration and the allocation of training opportunities

Selection of candidates for training programmes under plans of work for exploration

Recommendations by the Legal and Technical Commission

I. Introduction

1. Pursuant to their contracts for exploration with the International Seabed Authority, Ocean Mineral Singapore Pte. Ltd. (OMS), the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea, Marawa Research and Exploration Ltd., Nauru Ocean Resources Inc. (NORI) and the Interoceanmetal Joint Organization (IOM) submitted training proposals to the secretariat.

2. At its meeting held on 2 July 2018, the Legal and Technical Commission appointed a subgroup to evaluate and recommend candidates for training opportunities. It had agreed that the subgroup would work with the secretariat between sessions to identify appropriate candidates for training opportunities (ISBA/20/LTC/13, paras. 11–13). In selecting candidates, the subgroup considered the relevant regulations and the principles, policies and procedures applicable to the training programmes, in particular the recommendations for the guidance of contractors and sponsoring States relating to training programmes under plans of work for exploration (ISBA/19/LTC/14).

3. Owing to the scheduling demands of the training opportunities offered by OMS and the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea, the subgroup was required to conduct its work by email between the first and second parts of the present session of the Commission. The candidates for the other training opportunities, however, were selected according to the normal process during the second part of the session.

4. Candidates were selected on the basis of the qualification criteria provided by all contractors for their respective programmes, in particular educational background, language proficiency, work experience, reasons for seeking training, potential career



development, expected benefit to the candidates' countries and other merits specified in the application material. In addition to those considerations, due regard was paid to gender balance and equitable geographical distribution, with particular attention to the interests and needs of landlocked and geographically disadvantaged developing States, as requested by the Council in a decision adopted at the twentieth session (ISBA/20/C/31, para. 6).

II. Intersessional selection of candidates

5. On 7 July 2018, a training proposal was received from OMS in accordance with its contract for the exploration for polymetallic nodules. In the proposal, OMS offered 10 three-month internship placements starting between April and October 2019. While the Commission selected five interns for the April placements, it was recommended that the five internships for the July and October placements be re-advertised in separate batches. Immediately following the first part of the 2019 session, the three internships starting in July were re-advertised, with one focused on an adaptive path-planning framework for polymetallic nodules exploration and the other two focused on deep-sea biological material handling and assessment.

6. On 27 November 2018, the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea submitted a training proposal pursuant to its contract for exploration for polymetallic sulphides that included two six-month internships in which candidates would have the opportunity to work closely with scientists at the Korea Institute of Ocean Science and Technology in conducting geological, chemical and biological laboratory analyses of environmental samples collected in the contract area of the Government of the Republic of Korea. In March 2019, after considering the very small number of applicants, the subgroup recommended that the two placements be re-advertised.

7. The training opportunities were duly advertised on the website of the Authority and through social media platforms. The following applications were evaluated:

(a) OMS internships: 12 candidates (6 from the African Group, 4 from the Asia-Pacific Group and 2 from the Latin American and Caribbean Group; 4 women and 8 men);

(b) Internships with the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea: 11 applications (6 from the African Group, 3 from the Asia-Pacific Group and 2 from the Latin American and Caribbean Group; 5 women and 6 men).

8. On the basis of the selection criteria and recommendations approved by the Commission, and taking into account consultations between the contractors and the secretariat, the subgroup recommended to the Commission the following first-ranked candidates and alternates for the aforementioned training programmes:

Ocean Mineral Singapore Pte. Ltd. (internships in July 2019)

<i>Name</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Country of origin</i>
First-ranked candidates (biological material handling and assessment)		
1. Stella Ukaonu	Female	Nigeria
2. Lei Wang	Male	China
Alternates		
1. Armyanda T. Razak	Female	Indonesia
2. Chidinma Nwoko	Female	Nigeria

**Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea
(for polymetallic sulphides)**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Country of origin</i>
First-ranked candidates		
1. Maiango Teimarane	Female	Kiribati
2. Armyanda T. Razak	Female	Indonesia
Alternates		
1. Alessandra I. Rivero	Female	Chile
2. Chidinma Nwoko	Female	Nigeria

9. With regard to the OMS internship focused on an adaptive path-planning framework for polymetallic nodules exploration, the subgroup, after noting that no suitably qualified candidate had been found after re-advertising the internship, recommended that the candidate be selected by the contractor, with the requirement that details of the selection process be reported to the Commission.

10. The Commission accepted the recommendations of the subgroup, including the list of preferred candidates for the training programmes.

III. Selection of candidates during the second part of the 2019 session

11. During the second part of its twenty-fifth session, in July, the Commission met to advise the Secretary-General on the selection of candidates for the training programmes proposed by Marawa, NORI, OMS and IOM.

12. On 12 December 2018, Marawa submitted a training proposal pursuant to its contract for exploration for polymetallic nodules. In its proposal, Marawa offered, inter alia, two professional development opportunities (one for a candidate from a developing State and the other for a national of Kiribati) to attend the Underwater Mining Conference to be held in Hainan, China, from 22 to 27 September 2019.

13. On 10 April 2019, NORI submitted a training proposal pursuant to its contract for exploration for polymetallic nodules. In the proposal, NORI offered two at-sea

training placements (one for a candidate from a developing State and the other for a candidate from Nauru) for persons interested in sea-floor sampling or geotechnical work. The three- to five-week offshore exploration campaign will be conducted in partnership with Maersk Supply Services within the NORI contract area of the Clarion-Clipperton Fracture Zone, between September and November 2019. The objective of the campaign will be to obtain a bulk sample of nodules in excess of 100 tons. The work will involve the targeting of optimal collection sites, the environmental monitoring of activities and the geological and geotechnical characterization of the sea floor from which the sample was taken and of the sample itself. The port of departure will be San Diego, United States of America.

14. In May, as recommended by the Commission, the two October internship placements focusing on deep-sea biological material handling and assessment offered by OMS were re-advertised.

15. On 22 May, IOM submitted a training proposal pursuant to its contract for exploration for polymetallic nodules. In the proposal, IOM offered two placements in a comprehensive six-week multidisciplinary training programme in the field of project management relating to polymetallic nodules (including the legal framework, exploration activities, environmental research, the economic cycle and metallurgical processing).

16. The training proposals were duly advertised on the website of the Authority and through social media platforms. The training subgroup evaluated the following applications during the meetings held in July 2019:

(a) Marawa: 2 candidates (1 from the African Group and 1 from the Latin American and Caribbean Group; 2 men). There were no applications from Kiribati;

(b) NORI: 10 candidates (6 from the African Group, 2 from the Latin American and Caribbean Group, 1 from the Western European and Other States Group and 1 from an observer State; 4 women and 6 men). There were no applications from Nauru;

(c) OMS: 4 candidates (1 from the African Group and 3 from the Asia-Pacific Group; 2 women and 2 men);

(d) IOM: 9 candidates (6 from the African Group, 1 from the Asia-Pacific Group and 2 from the Latin American and Caribbean Group; 2 women and 7 men).

17. The final list of recommended candidates and alternates is as follows:

Marawa Research and Exploration Ltd.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Country of origin</i>
First-ranked candidate		
Hank Hedge	Male	Jamaica

Nauru Ocean Resources Inc.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Country of origin</i>
First-ranked candidate (geology)		
Baciyunjuze G. Aganze	Male	Democratic Republic of the Congo
Alternate		
Fidelis Onah	Male	Nigeria
First-ranked candidate (oceanography)		
Lucía A. Villar-Muñoz	Female	Chile
Alternate		
Matheus de Assis Bose	Male	Brazil

Ocean Mineral Singapore Pte. Ltd.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Country of origin</i>
First-ranked candidate (adaptive path-planning framework)		
Nur Atiqah Maznan	Female	Malaysia

Interoceanmetal Joint Organization

<i>Name</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Country of origin</i>
First-ranked candidates		
1. Thiwaporn Phonsit	Female	Thailand
2. Jonathan Jonah	Male	Nigeria
Alternates		
1. Taiwo Ayodele Bolaji	Male	Nigeria
2. George M. Kasay	Male	Democratic Republic of the Congo
3. Okelia Douse	Female	Jamaica

18. In view of the very small number of applicants for one of the professional development opportunities at Marawa and for the OMS internship, the subgroup recommended that those training proposals be re-advertised.

19. The Commission accepted the recommendations of the subgroup regarding the list of preferred candidates for the training programmes.

IV. Other recommendations

20. With regard to the issue of harassment, which was raised in the Council meeting held on 1 March 2019, the secretariat reported to the subgroup that it had requested contractors to provide information on the policies and procedures that they had put in place concerning health and safety and harassment, both for vessels and institutions where training was given. Responses had been received from 10 contractors. The subgroup therefore asked the secretariat to continue to liaise with the contractors that had not replied to obtain information on their policies and procedures. The subgroup also considered that it would be useful to receive copies or direct links to such policies and procedures.

21. After due consideration, the Commission took note of and accepted the recommendations of the subgroup.
