

Assembly of the International Seabed Authority

(1) Item 9. Annual Report of the Secretary-General (ISBA/25/A/8)

Thank you, Madam President.

Since this is the first time for us to take the floor in the Assembly, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations on your election as a President of the Assembly of the ISA, and also many congratulations to the new Vice-Presidents on their election.

Korea also would like to express high appreciation to the Secretary General for comprehensive annual report and for the supportive work for the ISA. Korea aligns with the other delegations on expressing gratitude to Jamaica for their hospitality and hosting the ISA meetings in Jamaica.

Madam President,

With regard to the obligation of the contractors to provide training for the personnel of the Authority and developing countries, Korea is also performing its education and training obligations in accordance with the exploration contract between the International Seabed Authority and the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, Republic of Korea. The Korean government provides education and training programs to women from two developing countries. The programs are starting as soon as the trainees arrive in Korea later this month and will focus on international law, maritime policy, and participation in practical exercises in laboratories.

As one of the contractors, Korea would like to make a brief comment on this issue.

Korea is of the view that the Strategic Direction of strategic planning in relation to the training obligation presented by the African group is very meaningful. In particular,

reflecting the needs of the developing countries in training has a great significance in achieving the objectives of the training programme.

In this regard, Korea would like to highlight the importance of meeting the trainee's needs and suggest that the ISA survey demands of the developing countries on the training programs. To ensure effectiveness of the training programme, it would be important to set up the scope, contents, qualifications, and evaluation process of the training program. 'The scope' would include training vessels and institutions, 'contents' would include marine scientific research, law of the sea and policy, environmental impact assessment, and etc. The 'qualification' might include degree requirements or work experience in related fields as well as health conditions of the trainees to ensure their safety especially for those who are participating in the training vessels and laboratory practices. Finally, systematic evaluation process of the training program is important to improve the quality and effectiveness of the programmes. These scope, content, qualifications, and assessment should align with the goals and objectives of the training programme.

Currently, the contractors are independently preparing for the scope and contents of the training programs, and setting up these specific criteria mentioned earlier will strengthen the quality of the programs and will ultimately help meet the needs and expectations of trainees, trainers, and the ISA.

Also, in regard to the minimum financial commitment on training, it is a matter that needs to be judged flexibly according to the economic situation of the training country.

Madam President,

Korea will continue to support the ISA in developing the draft regulations, management of the resources and environment, capacity building of the developing countries and of the women, building and sharing of scientific and technological knowledge.

Thank you, Madam President.

