

Welcome Address

Dr Jai-Woon Moon, Director, Deep Seabed and Mineral Resources Research Center

On behalf of Dr Gi-Hoon Hong, President of KIOST, I am honored to deliver his message to this workshop.

Honorable Mr Nii Allotey Odunton, Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority, Distinguished scientists and representatives of contractors for exploration of deep seabed resources.

I warmly welcome all of you to visit the East Sea Research Institute of KIOST in Uljin. We are pleased to be able to host this workshop under the theme of the method standardization of macrofaunal taxonomy in the Clarion Clipperton Fracture Zone.

The location of this place is quite remote as you recognized yesterday, but it is very beautiful and right at the oceanfront. It is a good place for you all to work hard.

KIOST as one of the pioneer investors has been involved in the exploration of manganese nodules for almost 25 years since the late 1980s.

On one hand, we have expanded its applications gradually to SMS deposits and manganese crusts. On the other hand, we have made an effort to innovate underwater mining and refining technologies.

As of today, Korea secured licensed areas for manganese nodule in the Clarion-Clipperton Zone, and SMS deposits located in EEZs of Tonga and Fiji and international waters in the Indian Ocean.

A couple of years ago, we developed a pilot-scale robotic mining machine called *MineRo* which is the world's first robotic mining machine. Last year, we successfully conducted an operation test on the seabed at the depth of 1,380 meters. Further, we are planning to conduct a sea trial test of the full-version mining system including lifting and collecting by 2015.

Today, world interest in marine mineral resources are rising. Due to such a rising interest and market demand, the applications for ISA's exploration license are increasing notably.

For example, until 2010, only 8 mining licensed areas were approved by ISA, but by next year, this number will grow to 23.

Besides environmental issues on seabed mining are concerned, I believe convening this workshop is very timely and necessary. We will do our best to help make this workshop successful. I wish you all to share your experiences and expertise to achieve the goal of this workshop.

Lastly, but not the least, I do hope you all stay here comfortably and bring many good memories back home from Korea.

Again, I would like to express my deepest appreciation to Mr. Odunton, ISA Secretariat and the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Korean Government for their supports which made this workshop possible.

Thank You All.