



Western Pacific Triangle REMP Workshop

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CHINA'S DEEP SEA ENVIRONMENT POLICY AND PRACTICE

LIU Feng

Secretary-General, COMRA

liufeng@comra.org

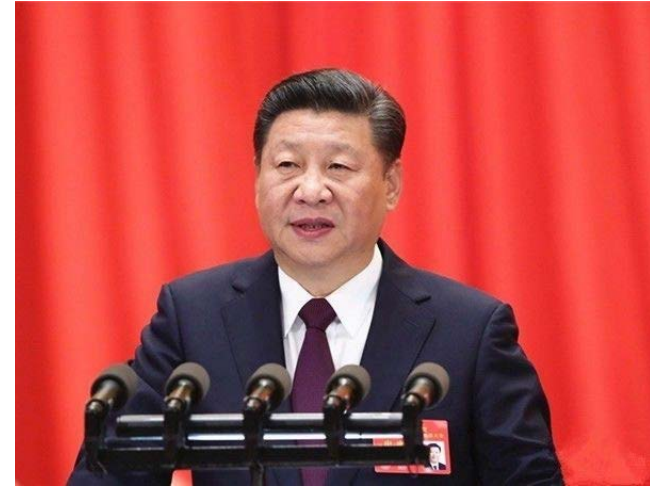
Outline

- China's Deep Sea environment policy
 - ✓ **National Policy for Ecological Civilization**
 - ✓ **China's Position on Seabed Regimes**
 - ✓ **National Law on Deep Seabed**
- China's deep sea environmental practice



National Policy for Ecological Civilization

- Strive to build a resource-conserving, environmentally friendly society.
- Implement the strictest possible environmental protection policy.
- Work to shape spatial layouts, industrial structures, modes of production, and ways of life that are conducive to resource conservation and environmental protection.
- Nature should be respected, adapted to, and protected; lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets.



**——Xi Jinping's
Report at 19th
CPC National
Congress**



Main Positions on Seabed Regimes



- **Insist on** the principle of common heritage of mankind
- **Use of the Area** exclusively for peaceful purposes
- **Balance** the utilization of the resources and the protection of environment





National Law on Deep Seabed

The Law of the People's Republic of China on Exploration for and Exploitation of Resources in the Deep Seabed



- ✓ **Adopted by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress on February 26, 2016**
- ✓ **Promulgated through No.42 Order of the President Xi, PRC**



National Law on Deep Seabed

Principles

- Peaceful and sustainable use
- Collaboration and sharing
- No less than ISA environment standards
- Maintaining common interests of mankind



Aims

- ✓ **Regulating** activities
- ✓ **Protecting** marine environment
- ✓ **Advancing** science and technology
- ✓ **Promoting** sustainable utilization
- ✓ **Safeguarding** the common interests of mankind



National Law on Deep Seabed

7 Chapters and 29 Articles

I. General Provisions

II. Exploration and Exploitation

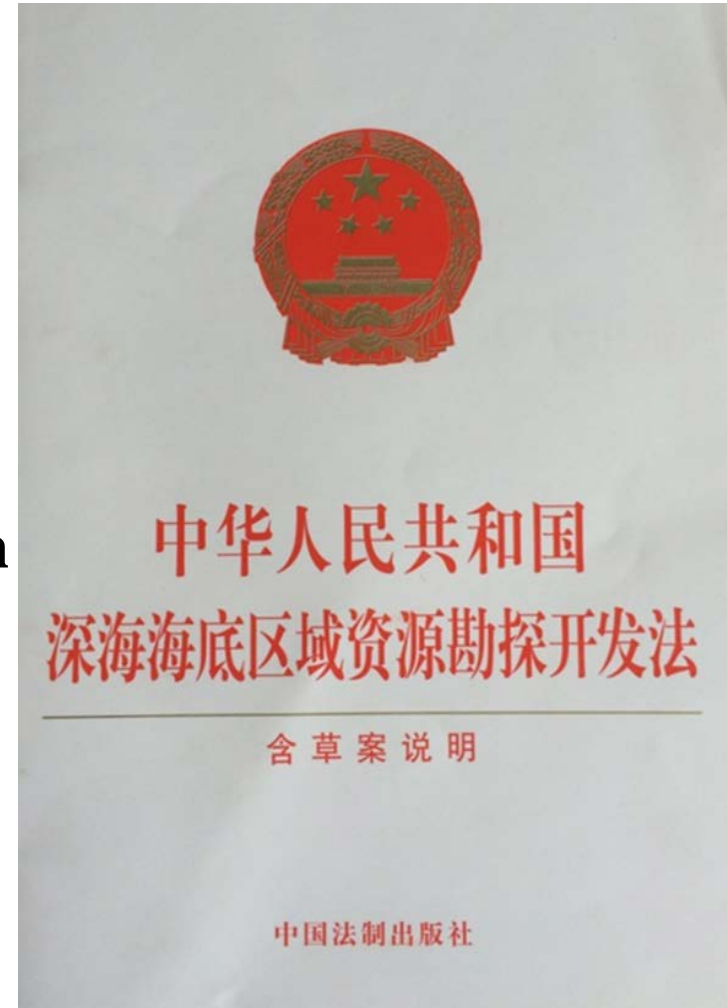
III. Environment Protection

IV. Science and Technology Research
and Resource Investigation

V. Supervision and Inspection

VI. Legal Liability

VII. Supplementary Provisions



Outline

- China's Deep Sea environment policy
- China's deep sea environmental practice
 - ✓ **COMRA's Mission**
 - ✓ **Balance: Utilization Vs Environment**
 - ✓ **Practice in Seabed Area**
 - ✓ **The Future**



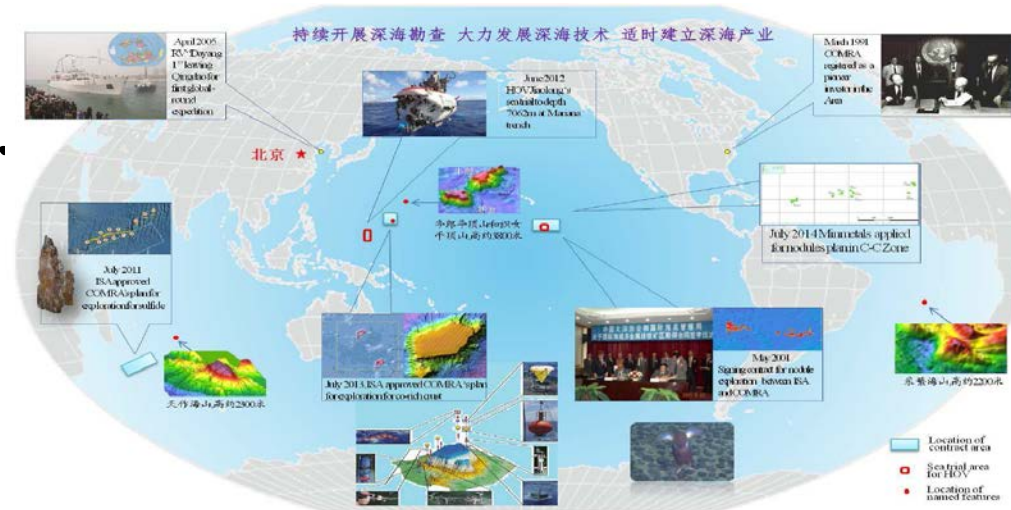
COMRA's Mission



中国大洋矿产资源研究开发协会

China Ocean Mineral Resources R&D Association

- Exploring new resources and promoting the establishment of a deep sea industry;
- Increasing cognition of the deep sea environment and development of the sea technology & equipment;
- Participating in the regime development of the Area for the peaceful utilization;
- Fulfilling the obligations as required of a contractor





Three contracts holder



Contract for exploration of polymetallic nodules

2001

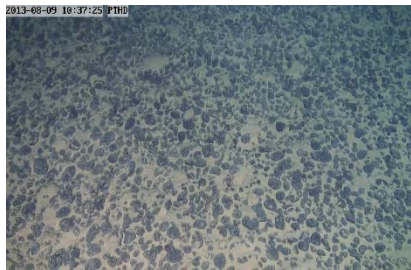


Photo of polymetallic nodules by COMRA



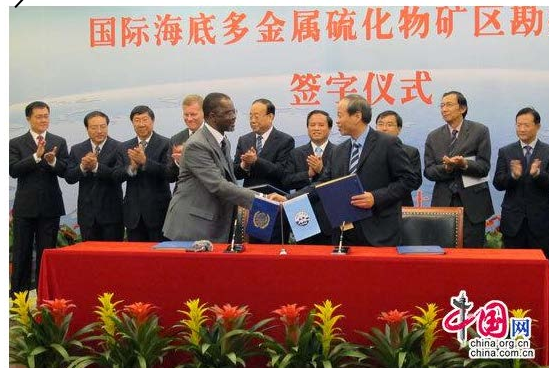
Contract for exploration of cobalt-rich crust

2011



Photo of cobalt-rich crusts by COMRA

2014



China has signed a 15-year exploration contract with the International Seabed Authority.

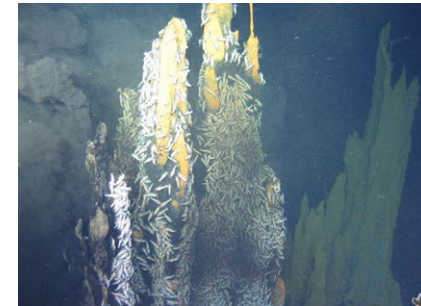


Photo of polymetallic sulphides by COMRA

Contract for exploration of polymetallic sulphides



Balance: Utilization Vs Environment

- ✓ COMRA Side event of "Balance of Resources Exploitation and Environmental Protection" during the 23rd session of ISA.
- ✓ East Pacific **Triangle REMP** Proposal
- ✓ The initiative: consistent with UN and ISA Reselution.





Triangle REMP:

Consistent with UN and ISA Resolutions

United Nations

A/RE

International Seabed Authority

ISBA/24/C/3



General Assembly

Distr.:
27 Febru



Council

Distr.: General
16 January 2018

Original: English

Sixty-eighth session
Agenda item 76 (a)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 9 December 2013

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/68/L.18 and Add.1)]

68/70. Oceans and the law of the sea

The General Assembly,

Recalling its annual resolutions on the law of the sea and on oceans and the law of the sea, including resolution 67/78 of 11 December 2012, and other relevant resolutions concerning the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (the Convention),¹

Twenty-fourth session
Council session, part I
Kingston, 5–9 March 2018
Agenda item 10*

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the decision of the Council in 2017 relating to the summary report of the Chair of the Legal and Technical Commission

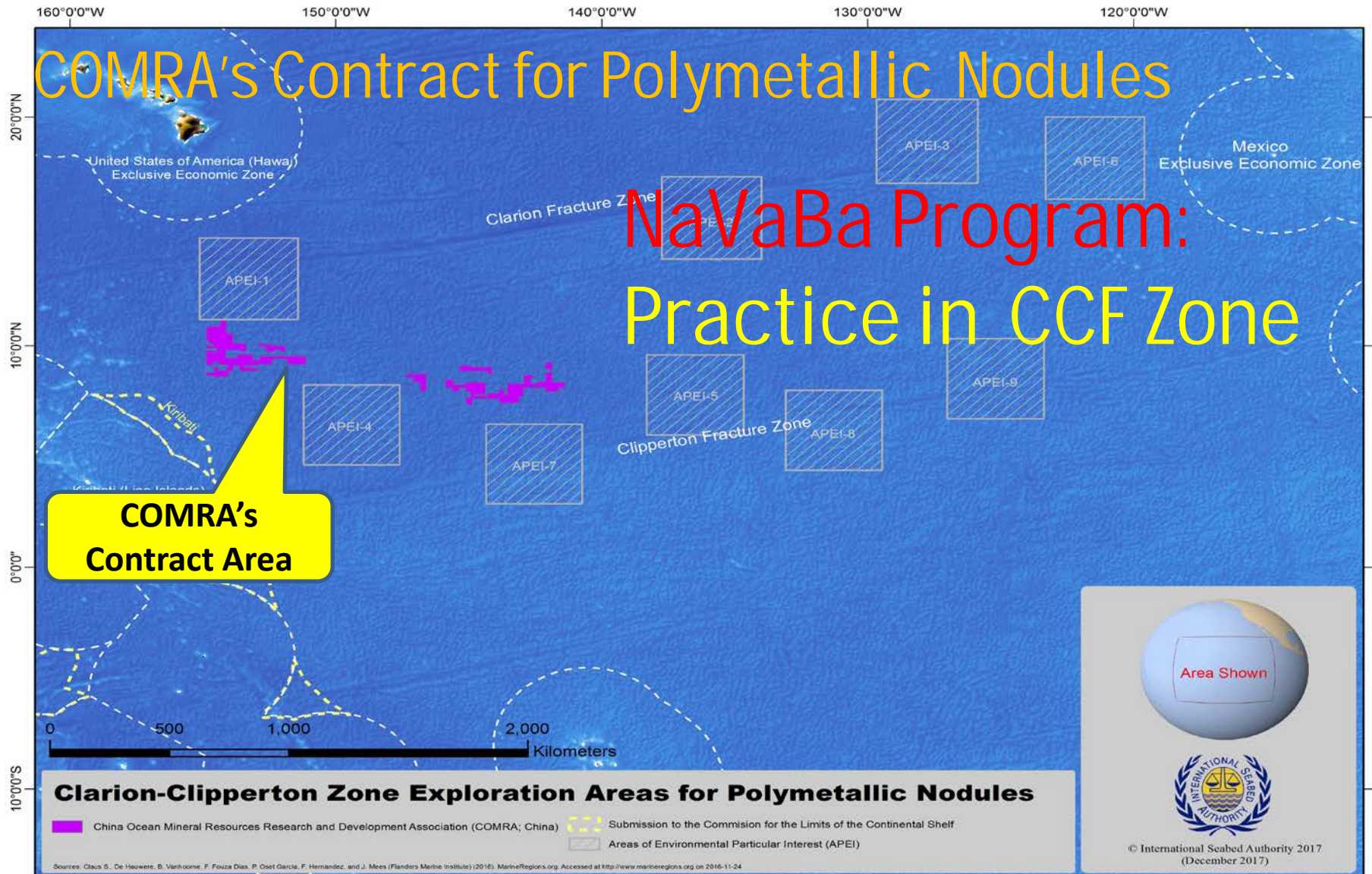
Preliminary strategy for the development of regional environmental management plans for the Area

Report of the Secretary-General

technical and environmental baseline and resource assessment data become available and that, for that purpose, the conduct of marine scientific research in those areas and the supply of available results to the Authority was encouraged,²⁸ and invites the Authority to consider developing and approving **environmental management plans** in other international seabed area zones, in particular where there are currently exploration contracts;



Practice in Seabed Area





NaVaBa Program

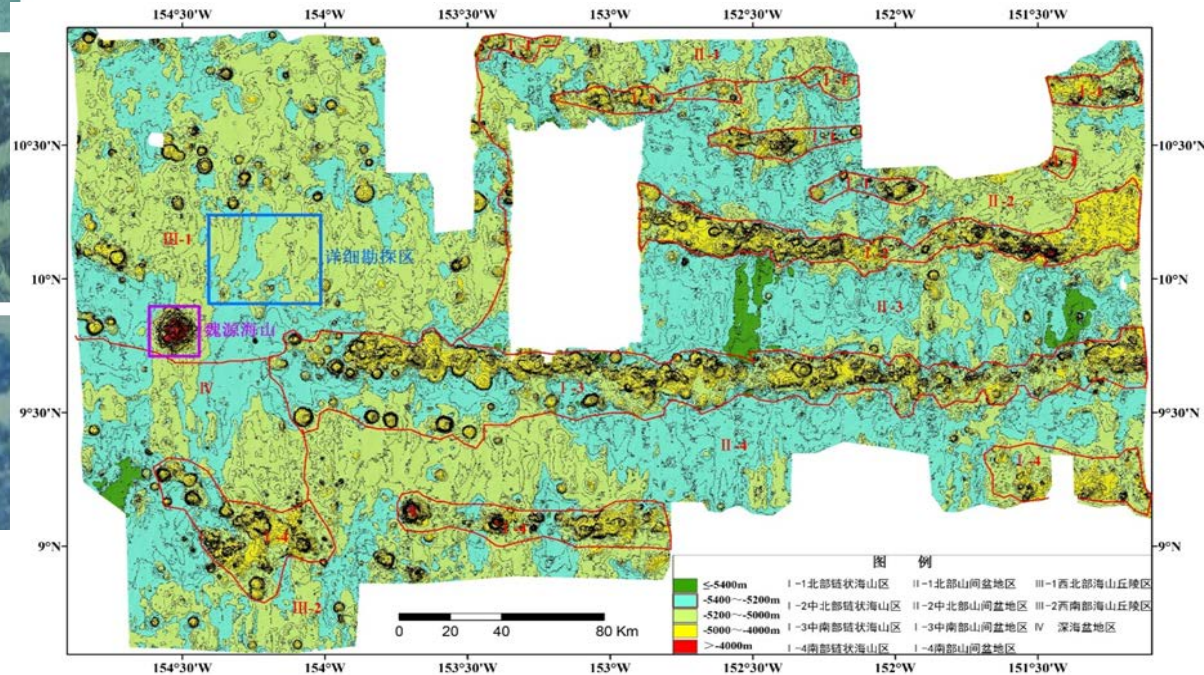
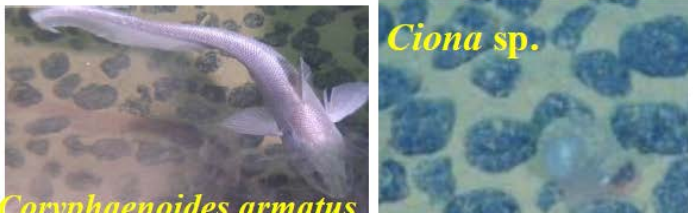
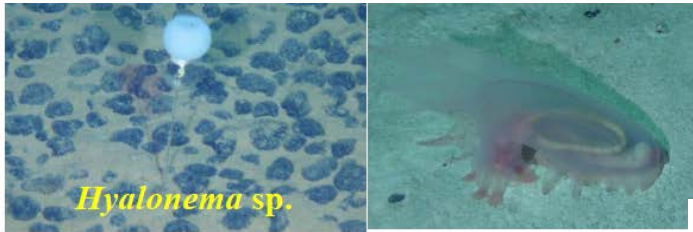
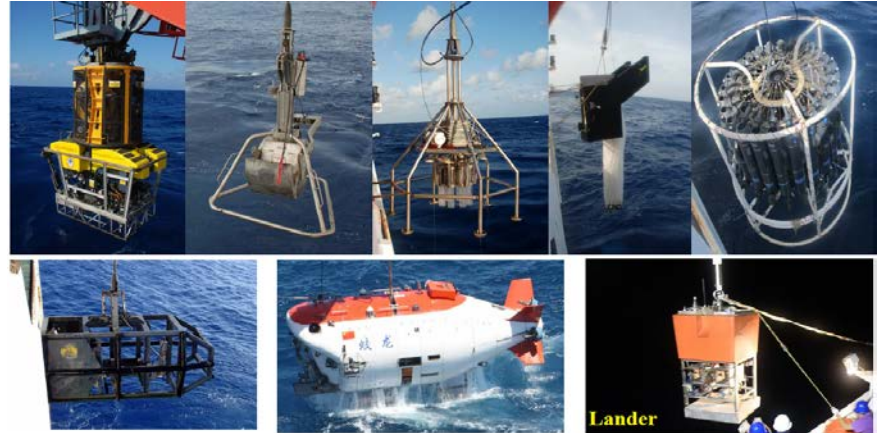
Natural Variability Baseline Study Program

- **Baseline is not a horizontal line, rather a variational line, may be influenced by El Nino and La Nina**
- **Onsite survey on annual basis, to cumulate the baseline, to get the Variability**
- **To conduct IMPCAT test, distinct the changes from nature influence and the disturbance of human activity**



Practice in Seabed Area

NaVaBa Program: Practice in CCF Zone



NaVaBa Program:

Data provided to ISA, including APEI data

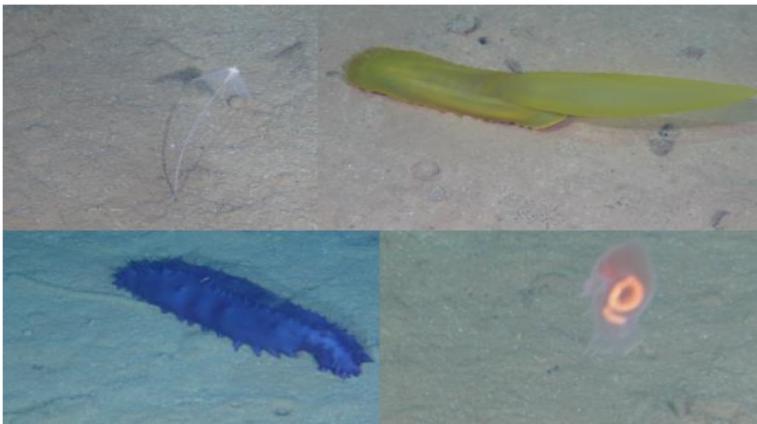
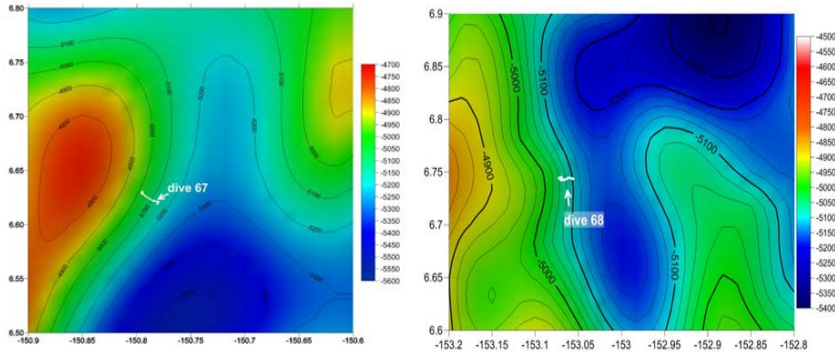


Photo taken by "JIAOLONG" from APEI



Twenty-second session
Kingston, Jamaica
11-22 July 2016

Review of the implementation of the environmental management plan for the Clarion-Clipperton Fracture Zone

15. The review of the areas of particular environmental interest, as mentioned in paragraph 7, requires an evaluation of: (a) the available data; (b) the scientific validity of the approach; and (c) the size, location and number of the areas.
16. Data have been collected from some of the nine areas of particular environmental interest in recent years. So far, no data are available from three of the areas. The areas and related contractors are as follows:

Area No. 1: China Ocean Mineral Resources Research and Development Association (COMRA) (2013)

Area No. 2: No data available

Area No. 3: European Joint Programming Initiative for Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans (JPI-Oceans) (2015)

Area No. 4: COMRA (2013)

Area No. 5: No data available

Area No. 6: Global Sea Minerals Resources NV (GSR) (2015), European Union managing impacts of deep-sea resource exploitation project (MIDAS) (2015), UK Seabed Resources Ltd. (UKSRL) (2015); (the latter two misidentified it as area No. 4)

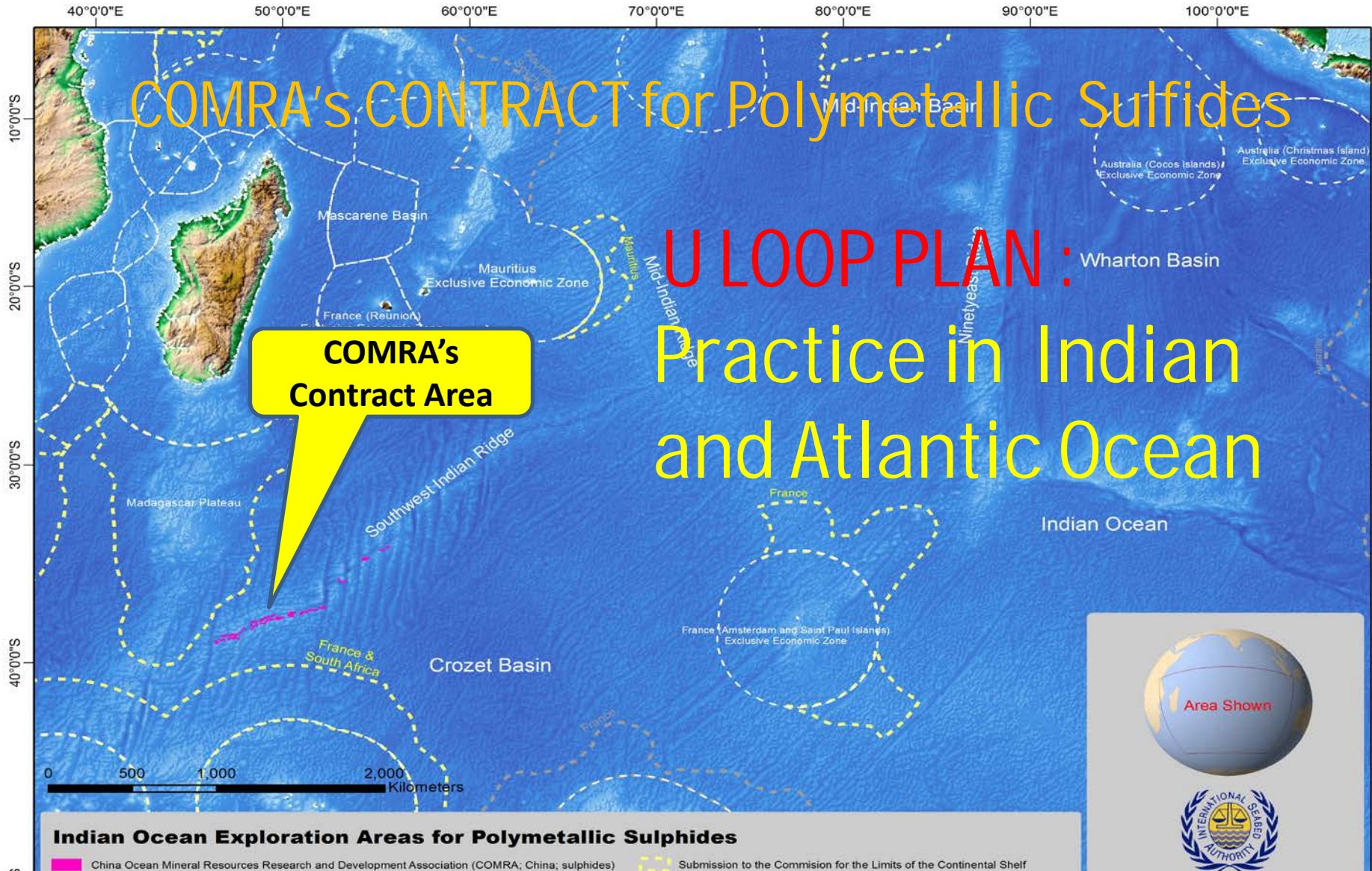
Area No. 7: COMRA (2013)

Area No. 8: the Government of the Republic of Korea (in seven years between 1998 and 2013)

Area No. 9: No data available



Practice in Seabed Area



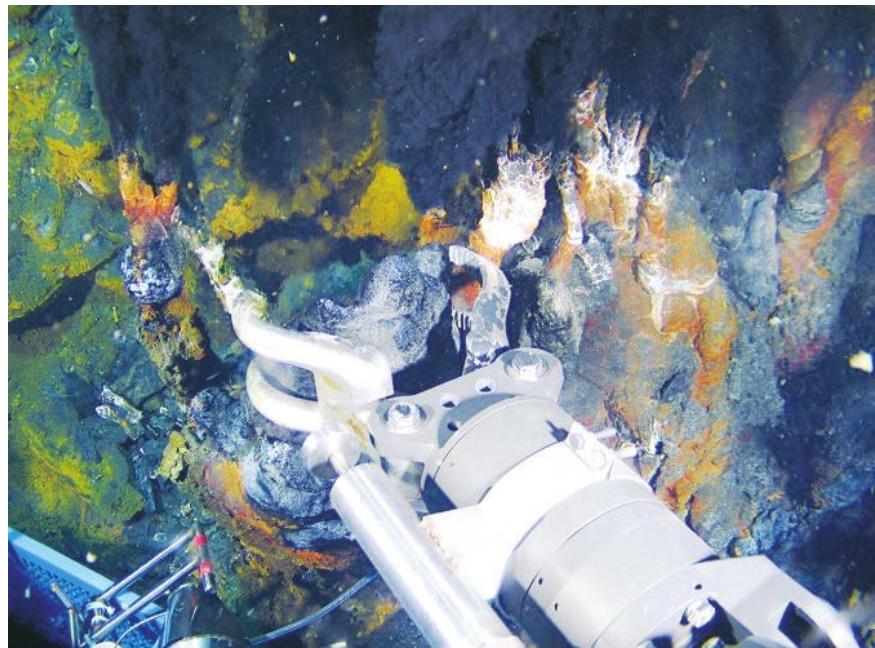
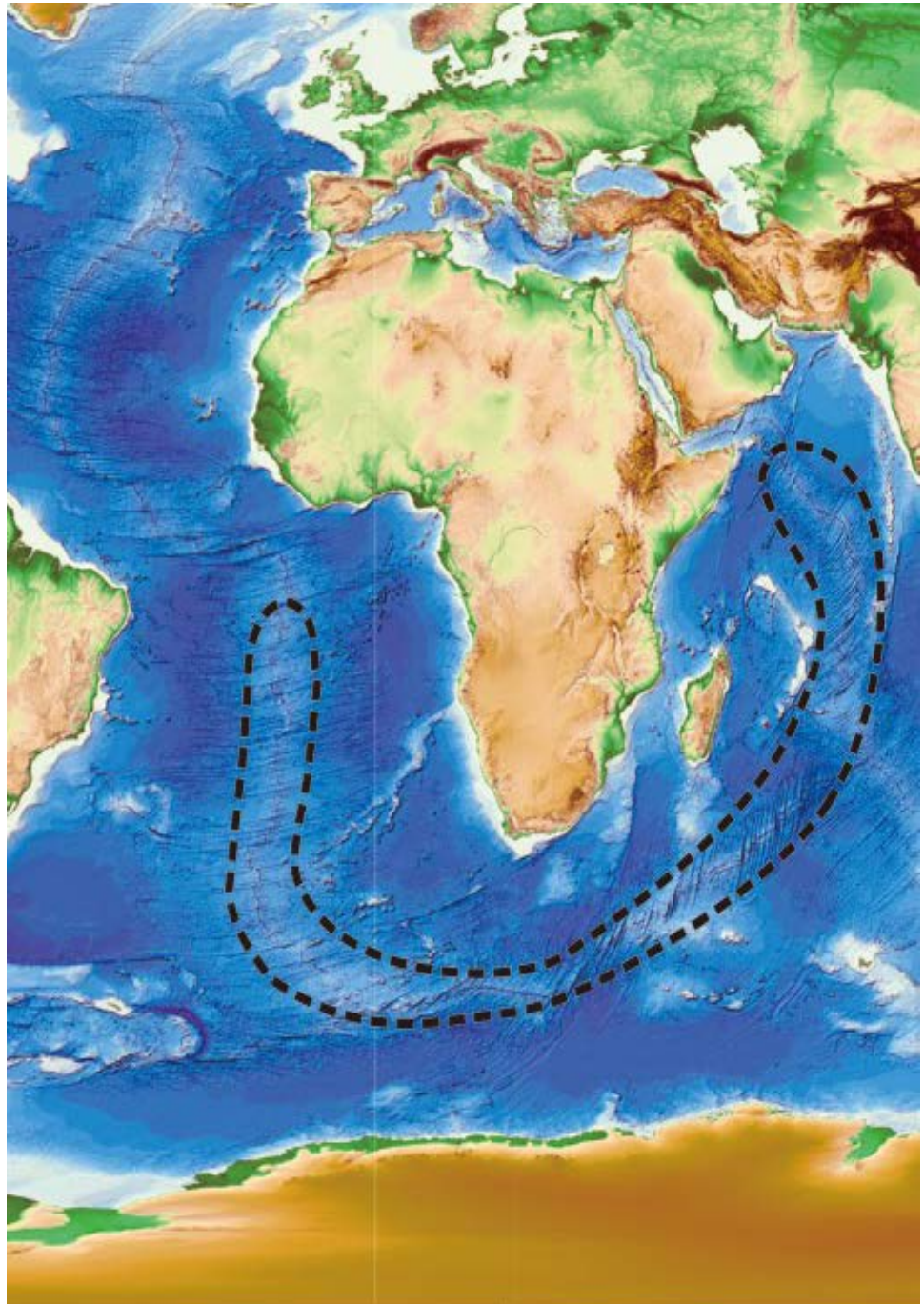


U LOOP PLAN: Practice in Indian and Atlantic Ocean

- 1. Biodiversity, endemism and biogeographic relationships**
- 2. Connectivity at multiple time and spatial scales and their drivers/barriers**
- 3. Define the frame of indices used in the assessment of biodiversity protection in vent ecosystems**
- 4. Establishment of the framework for the environmental management for polymetallic sulphide in these areas**

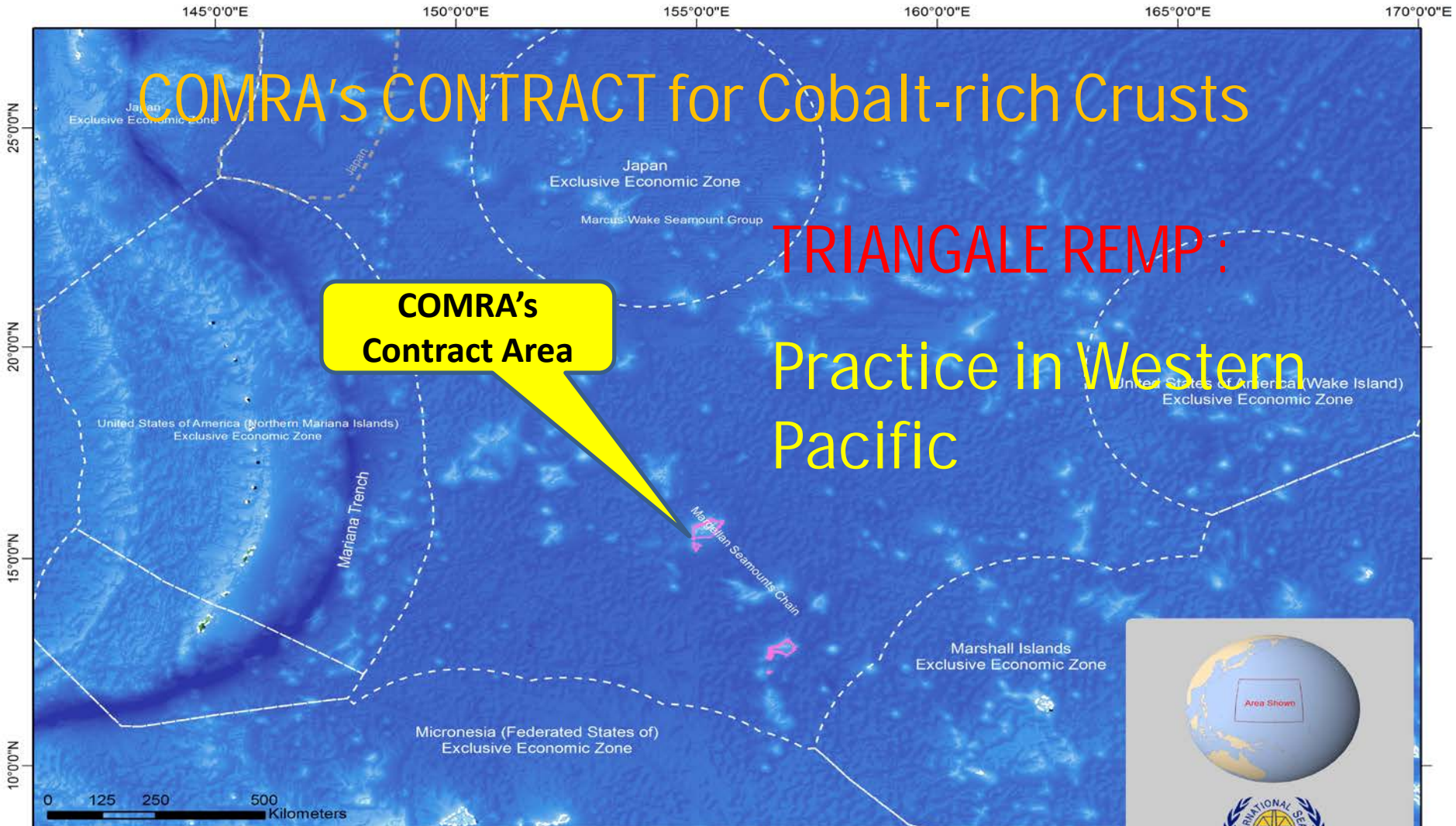
U LOOP PLAN:

Practice in Indian and Atlantic Ocean





Practice in Seabed Area



Pacific Ocean Exploration Areas for Cobalt-rich Ferromanganese Crusts

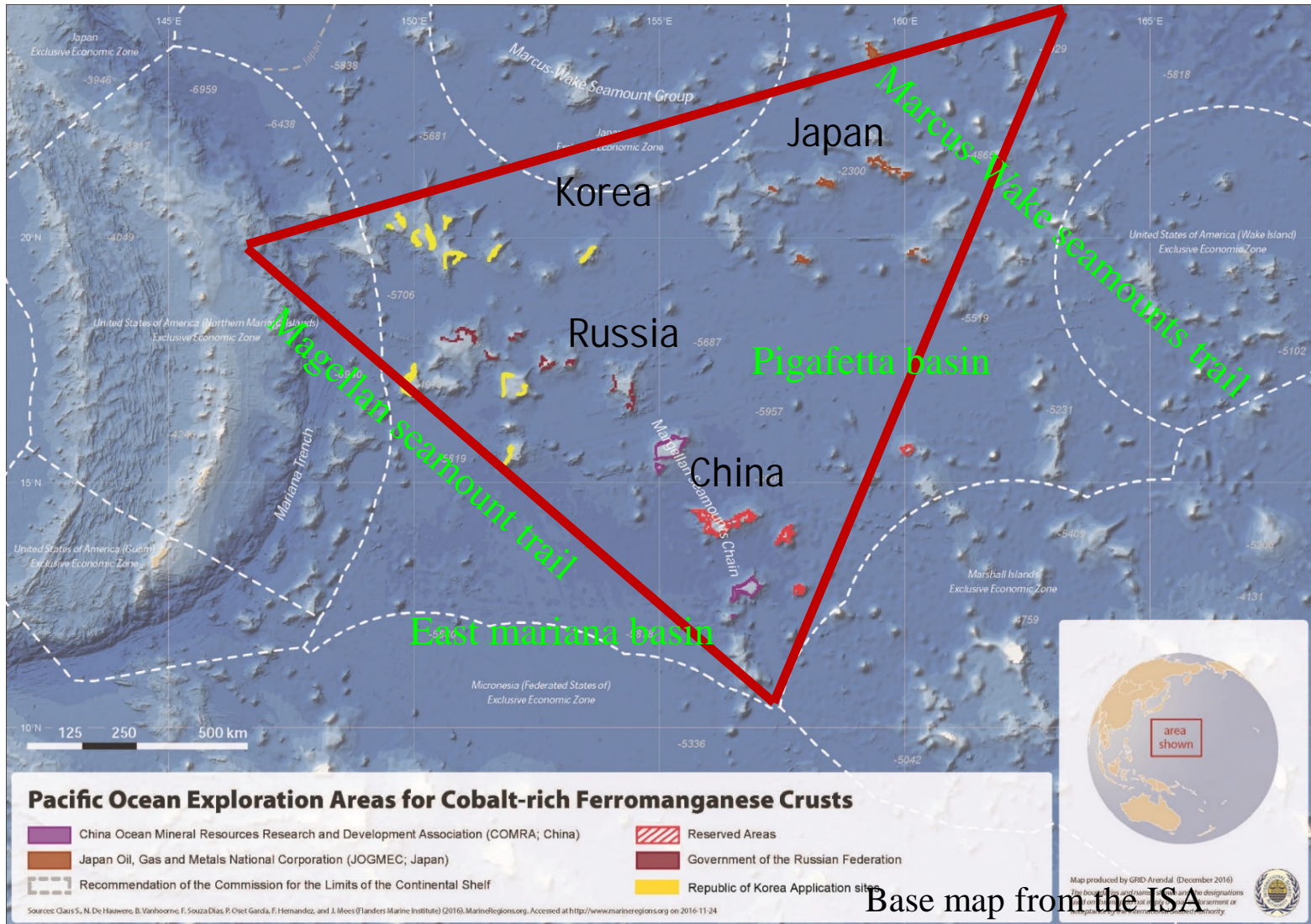
China Ocean Mineral Resources Research and Development Association (COMRA; China) Recommendation of the Commission for the Limits of the Continental Shelf

Sources: Claes S., De Hauwere, B. Verhoorne, F. Fouze Dias, P. Oest Garcia, F. Hernandez, and J. Mees (Flanders Marine Institute) (2016). MarineRegions.org. Accessed at <http://www.marinerregions.org> on 2016-11-24

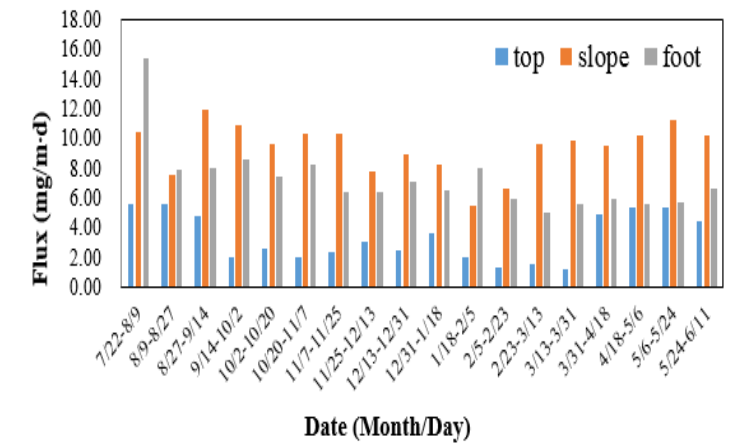
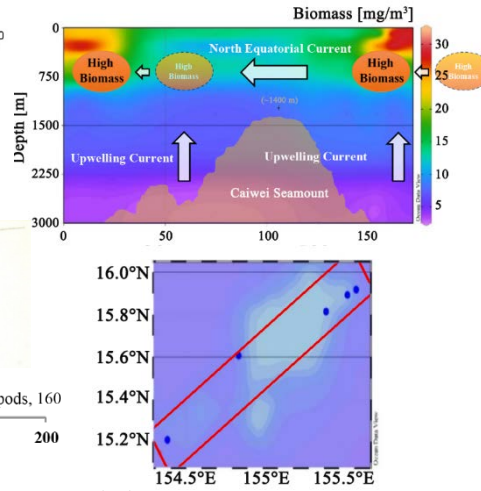
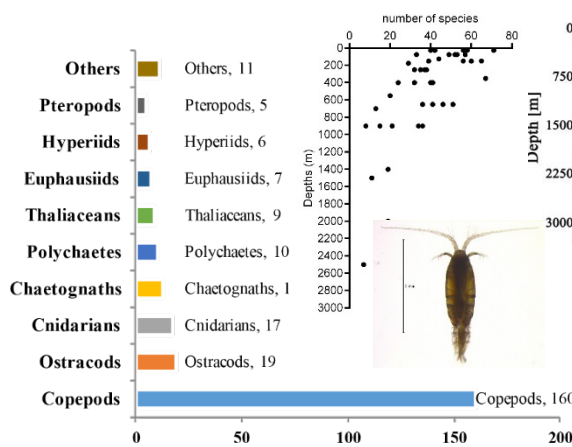
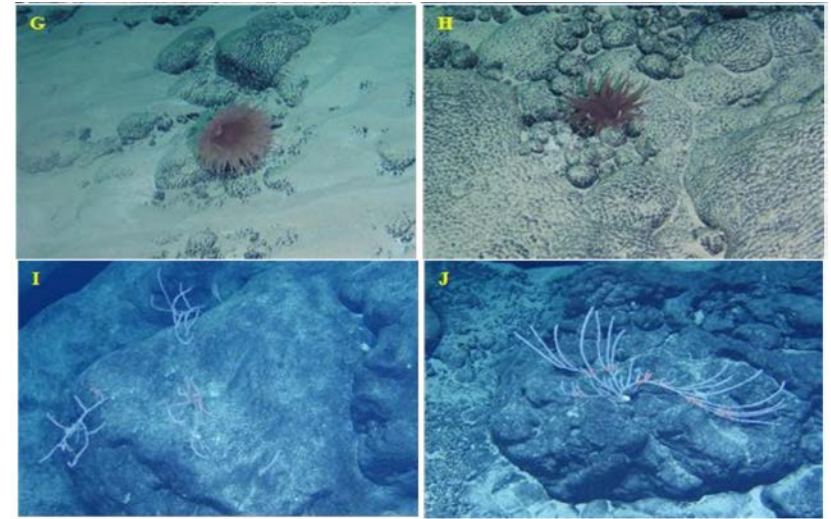
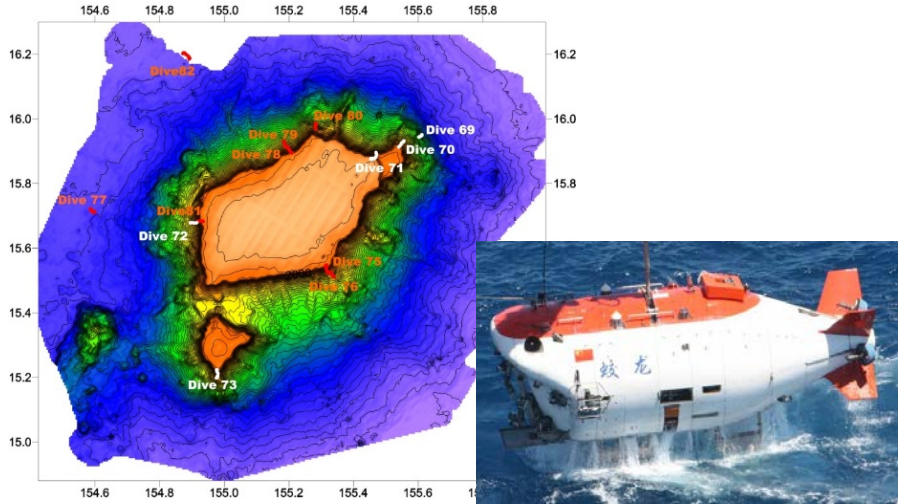




TRIANGALE REMP : Practice in Western Pacific



TRIANGALE REMP : Practice in Western Pacific



Data from China Ocean Mineral Resources R&D Association

Zooplankton

Particle flux at Caiwei



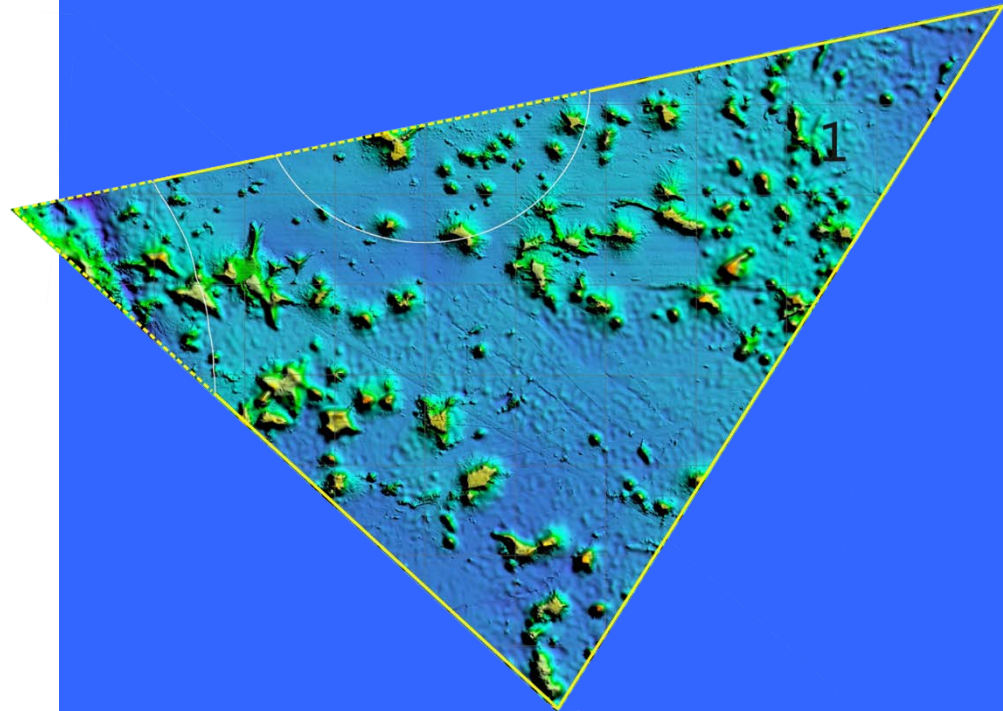
The Future

- **Countries are becoming increasingly interconnected and interdependent.**
- **No country can address alone the many challenges facing mankind; no country can afford to retreat into self-isolation.**
- **Deep sea is so vast and exists so many mysteries and deep sea going is so costly. No a single scientist, nor a institution could solely takes the whole challenge and bear the burden.**

The future of the world rests in the hands of the people of all countries; the future of mankind hinges on the choices they make.

We, the Chinese, are ready to work with the people of all other countries to build a community with a shared future for mankind and create a bright tomorrow for all of us.

——Xi Jinping





Thank you for your attention!