

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT NEEDS FOR EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION OF DEEP SEABED MINERALS

FIJI ISLANDS

29 November – 2 December 2011

Introduction

There is increasing need to focus on environmental management arrangements in light of increasing awareness of, and interest in, exploration for deep sea minerals. Various interest groups are concerned with the potential impacts of deep sea mining and how responsible authorities (i.e. governments and the International Seabed Authority) will regulate this emerging economic development opportunity in a sustainable manner both within national jurisdiction and in the Area, in accordance with international best environmental practice. The generally accepted consensus among stakeholders is the application of a precautionary approach to balance economic benefits with environmental protection and conservation.

This workshop will be hosted by the Fiji Government and co-organised by the International Seabed Authority and SPC/SOPAC Division. For SOPAC member countries, the workshop will also build on the outcomes of the SPC-EU Deep Sea Minerals (DSM) Project High Level Meeting that was held in Nadi Fiji in June 2011. The workshop will be held in conjunction with the 2nd Steering Committee Meeting of the Pacific Marine Minerals Assessment currently underway as part of the SPC-UNEP/GRID-Arendal Partnership.

Objectives

The objectives of this workshop are:

- (1) To increase awareness of the nature of the mineral resources in marine areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction (“the Area”), and on the outer continental shelf, and the measures taken by the International Seabed Authority with regard to the protection of the marine environment from the harmful effects of deep seabed mining and the applicability of such measures to the development of marine minerals within national jurisdiction.
- (2) To formulate preliminary recommendations for environmental impact assessments (EIA) of seabed mining both within and beyond national jurisdiction.

PROGRAMME

Time	Activity	Presenter
Day 1: Tuesday 29 November 2011		
7.30 am - 8.00 am	Registration	All participants
8.30 am - 9.30 am	Traditional Welcome accorded to the Secretary General of the ISA and delegates to the Workshop	Master of Ceremonies, Mr. Malakai Finau, Director Minerals Development, Fiji
9.30 am - 9.45 am	Group photograph	All participants
9.45 am - 10.30 am	Official opening Opening prayer Welcome remarks (a) SOPAC (b) Fiji Government (c) International Seabed Authority Workshop programme and outline, expected results and outcomes	Ms. Namita Khatri, Acting Director Political and Treaties Mr. Malakai Finau Russell Howorth, Director, SOPAC Division, SPC Hon Minister Timoci Lesi Natuva, Minister for Works and Public Utilities, Fiji Nii Allotey Odunton, Secretary- General ISA Facilitator(s)
10.30 am - 10.45 am	<i>Morning tea</i>	
10.45 am - 12.30 pm	Session 1: Marine Mineral Resources	
	Marine mineral resources of the Asia-Pacific region within and beyond national jurisdiction.	Jim Hein, USGS
	Seafloor massive sulphide (SMS) potential within and beyond national jurisdiction in the Asia-Pacific region	Ray Binns, CSIRO
	Global marine potential for rare earth elements (REEs) and recent developments	Jim Hein, USGS
12.30 pm - 1.30 pm	<i>Lunch</i>	
1.30 pm - 3.30 pm	Session 2: The Legal Regime for the Development of Marine Mineral Resources	
	The International Seabed Authority: Structure and functions.	Nii Allotey Odunton, ISA
	The legal regime for the development of the mineral resources of the Area.	Michael Lodge, ISA
	The legal regime for the development of marine mineral resources within national jurisdiction.	Hannah Lily, SPC
3.30 pm - 3.45 pm	<i>Afternoon tea</i>	

4.00 pm - 5.00 pm	Session 3: Environmental Regulation	
	The potential environmental impact of seabed mining.	Charles Morgan, Planning Solutions, Inc.
	International standards for the protection of the marine environment.	Robin Warner, The Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources & Security
Day 2: Wednesday 30 November 2011		
8.30 am - 10.15 am	Session 4: Protection of the Marine Environment in the Area	
	What baseline and monitoring data are needed for environmental protection from marine mining in the Area?	Chuck Fisher, Pennsylvania State University
	Status of technology relevant to the protection of the marine environment.	Robert Heydon, Nauru Ocean Resources Inc.
	Marine conservation perspectives and concerns for deep sea mining	Jan Steffen, IUCN
10.15 am - 10.30 am	<i>Morning tea</i>	
10.30 am - 12.30 pm	Session 5: ISA initiatives for environmental protection	
	The environmental work of the International Seabed Authority	Adam Cook, ISA
	Standardization of environmental data	Malcolm Clark, NIWA
	Status of exploration contractors' work in the Clarion-Clipperton Zone.	TBC
12.30 pm - 1.30 pm	<i>Lunch</i>	
1.30 pm - 3.15 pm	Session 6: Regional and national initiatives and case studies	
	SPC-EU Deep Sea Minerals Project	Akuila Tawake, SPC
	Outcomes of the Western South Pacific Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs)	Nic Bax, University of Tasmania
	Case study: Nautilus Minerals Inc. Solwara 1 project	Samantha Smith, Nautilus Minerals Inc.
3.15 pm - 3.30 pm	<i>Afternoon tea</i>	
3.30 pm - 5.00 pm	Session 6: (continued) - National case studies:	
	(a) Tonga	Paula Taumoepeau, Nautilus Minerals Tonga
	(b) Cook Islands	Paul Lynch, Adviser to the Minister of Natural Resources and Minerals and Seabed Mining Taskforce, Cook Islands
	(c) Papua New Guinea	Lyndah Brown-Kola, Mineral Resources Authority, PNG
	(d) Fiji	Malakai Finau, Ministry of Lands and Minerals Resources, Fiji
	(e) Nauru	Bryan Starr, Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Environment, Nauru

	(f) Kiribati	Tearinaki Tanielu, Minerals Unit, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources Development, Kiribati
	(g) Japan	Tetsuhiko Toyohara, Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation(JOGMEC), Japan
Day 3: Thursday 1 December 2011		
8.30 am - 10.15 am	Session 7: Working Groups - law and policy - technological considerations - environmental requirements	
<i>10.15 am - 10.30 am</i>	<i>Morning tea</i>	
10.30 am - 12.30 pm	As above	
<i>12.30 pm - 1.30 pm</i>	<i>Lunch</i>	
1.30 pm - 3.15 pm	Group presentations and discussion	
<i>3.15 pm - 3.30 pm</i>	<i>Afternoon tea</i>	
3.30 pm - 5.00 pm	As above – return to working groups as necessary	
Day 4: Friday 2 December 2011		
8.30 am - 10.30 am	Session 8: Workshop Outcomes Presentation and consideration of draft recommendations	
<i>10.15 am - 10.30 am</i>	<i>Morning tea</i>	
10.30 am - 12.30 pm	- Adoption of draft recommendations - Suggestions for future work programme - Closing	