



**Fourth Edition of the Secretary-General Award  
for Excellence in Deep-Sea Research**

**Kingston, Jamaica**

**24 July 2023**

**STATEMENT**

by

Mr. Michael W. Lodge

Secretary-General, International Seabed Authority

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Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Dear colleagues,

It is my pleasure to introduce the recipient of the fourth edition of the Secretary-General's Award for Excellence in Deep-Sea Research.

As you know, this Award is recognized to young researchers from developing countries under the age of 45 to celebrate their significant contribution to advance scientific knowledge of the deep-sea environment and improve the development of sound and efficient regulatory frameworks.

The excellent quality of nominations received over the years is testament to the increasing visibility gained by this initiative and of the unique and worthwhile opportunities that the Award offers to young researchers.

It is with great pleasure that I announce that this year the Award acknowledges the remarkable work of Ms. Rima Browne, a young geographer and GIS specialist from the Cook Islands.

Ms. Browne made a significant contribution towards mapping and improving understanding of Blue Pacific. In particular, this Award is a formal recognition of her outstanding research on geomorphology which led to the publication of a seabed geomorphology map of the Cook Islands and its immediate surrounds.

The publication is critical for many applications, including marine habitat management, mineral resource assessments, marine spatial planning, submarine communications infrastructure, and natural hazard risk assessments.

I wish to take this opportunity to formally express my sincere gratitude to the members of the new Advisory Committee who have given their time and supported this initiative with enthusiasm. My thanks go to H.E. Dr. Maureen Tamuno, Dr. Gordon Patterson, Ms. Jihyun Lee, Prof. Pedro Madureira and Dr. Ramadass.

I also wish to express my gratitude to Monaco for the generous and essential support provided to this initiative since 2017. Monaco continues to be a strong supporter of the promotion and encouragement of marine scientific research, women empowerment and leadership in ocean science. It is therefore a great privilege to partner with Monaco in recognizing the excellence of young researchers from developing countries.

As part of the prize, Ms. Rima Browne will receive:

- a cash prize of USD 4,000
- support to participate into one ISA workshop on matters of expertise
- reimbursement of publication fees of an article written by the Awardee in a scientific open access journal
- support to participate in the current Assembly session.

Ms. Browne is with us today and I am pleased to give her the floor to share some thoughts.