



**KIOST's 50th anniversary**

**Republic of Korea**

**21 September 2023**

**STATEMENT**

by

H.E. Mr. Michael W. Lodge

Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority

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President Dr. Do-Hyung Kang

Ladies and gentlemen,

Greetings from Kingston, Jamaica.

It is my great pleasure to join you today to celebrate with you the 50th anniversary of the Korean Institute of Ocean Science and Technology.

My sincere congratulations to KIOST for reaching such a remarkable milestone – a milestone that represents not only decades of groundbreaking achievement, but also a bright future with greater ambitions.

Over these decades KIOST has made a significant contribution to international cooperation in marine science and ocean technology. It symbolizes the excellence and dedication of its staff.

The International Seabed Authority has been collaborating with KIOST for more than 30 years.

As the organization mandated by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea to organize and control all activities related to mineral resources in the international seabed area, our collaboration with KIOST has been essential to the overall progress made in improving our knowledge and understanding of the deep sea and its ecosystems.

Science is at the core of the work that we do at ISA, so the contribution of scientific institutions like KIOST is critical. The data collected and knowledge generated directly inform the way that ISA, as custodian of 54% of the world's seabed, manages and develops the Area and its resources applying a precautionary approach and for the benefit of humanity.

Since 2020, our collective efforts are aimed at addressing the key strategic research priorities identified by the international community through the Global Deep Sea Research Agenda that ISA is leading through the Action Plan for Marine Scientific Research in support of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

Through KIOST, the Government of the Republic of Korea sponsors three contracts for exploration for polymetallic nodules, polymetallic sulfides and cobalt rich-crusts. Your strong commitment to data sharing, research collaboration, and training has enriched the scientific knowledge of the deep sea available to ISA and the international community and in turn, significantly enriched the common heritage for the benefit of humankind.

KIOST has also been one of the key contributors to ISA's process for the development of regional environmental management plans, including by hosting an expert workshop in 2020 for the Northwest Pacific Ocean.

I look forward to further scaling up our collaboration in support of deep-sea science, technology development, and innovation, as well as further support for our action towards women's empowerment in ocean affairs and in deep-sea research.

Let's continue to dive deeper, together. Our partnership will contribute to a new chapter in the sustainable management of deep-sea minerals worldwide.

Thank you.

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