



Legal and Technical Commission

Advance Unedited Version
14 March 2025

English only

Thirtieth session

Legal and Technical Commission, part I
Kingston, 3-14 March 2025
Agenda item 7

Status of the implementation of training programmes under plans of work for exploration and the allocation of training opportunities

Selection of candidates for training programmes under plans of work for exploration

Recommendations by the Legal and Technical Commission

1. During the intersessional period following the July 2024 session, a total of 33 training opportunities were offered by seven contractors pursuant to their contracts for exploration with the International Seabed Authority (see annex I). These placements comprised:

a) Five out of the ten theoretical and practical training placements which were previously offered by the Government of India in 2024 pursuant to its contract for polymetallic nodules but were recommended for readvertisement owing to an insufficient number of suitably qualified applicants.

b) One replacement for on land training and five at-sea onboard training offered by the Government of India under its contract for polymetallic sulphides.

c) Five fellowships by Beijing Pioneer Hi-Tech Development Corporation (BPC) under its contract for polymetallic nodules.

d) Two internships by Institut français de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer (*Ifremer*) under its contract for polymetallic nodules.

e) One at-sea onboard training by Tonga Offshore Mining Limited under its contract for polymetallic nodules.

f) Two International Seabed Authority Deep Dive (Dive 2) eLearning, two APEC Dredging Seminar and one master's fellowship by Cook Islands Investment Corporation (CIIC) under its contract for polymetallic nodules.

g) Five on land and at-sea training by Japan Organization for Metals and Energy Security (JOGMEC) under its contract for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts.

h) Four at-sea onboard training by Government of the Republic of Korea (MOF-ROK) under its contract for polymetallic sulphides.

2. To accommodate scheduling demands for the training programmes, the Legal and Technical Commission, prior to the commencement of part I of the thirtieth session and in accordance with the recommendations of the training subgroup, selected candidates for all of the above-mentioned programmes (see annex II).

3. In addition, during the first part of the thirtieth session, selection of candidates was conducted by the Commission for four training opportunities offered by two contractors namely, Ifremer under its contract for polymetallic sulphides and MOF-ROK pursuant to its contract for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts (see annexes I and III).

4. Candidates were selected based on the criteria provided by contractors. Due consideration was given to gender balance and equitable geographical distribution, with particular attention given to the interests and needs of the least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries and small island developing States (SIDS), as requested by the Council in a decision adopted at the twentieth session (see [ISBA/20/C/31](#), para. 6) and reiterated in the decision of the Assembly relating to the implementation of a programmatic approach to capacity development ([ISBA/26/A/18](#)), adopted at the twenty-sixth session, and formalized through the adoption in 2022 of the capacity development strategy (see [ISBA/27/A/11](#)).

5. A breakdown of the selection figures shows that since July 2024, regionally, of the 37 selected first-ranked candidates, 25 were from the African group, 8 from the Asia-Pacific group and 4 from the group of Latin American and Caribbean States (GRULAC). A further breakdown shows that five were from least developed countries (LDCs) and two (one) were from small island developing States (SIDS). Of the 26 reserves or alternates candidates, 22 were from the African group, three from the Asia-Pacific group and one from GRULAC; five were from LDCs and one SIDS (see annexes II and III).

6. Contractors continue to contribute positively to the implementation of the Women in Deep-Sea Research project¹, with only one remaining to join the pledge. For the current reporting period, all seven contractors pledged 50 per cent of their training opportunities to suitably qualified women, where possible (see annex I). Among the first-ranked candidates, 40.5 per cent (15) were women (see annexes II and III).

¹ More information is available at <https://www.isa.org.jm/capacity-development-training-and-technical-assistance/widsr-project/>.

Annex I

Training proposals offered by contractors for which selection process was completed

<i>Date of receipt</i>	<i>Contractor</i>	<i>Exploration contract</i>	<i>WIDSR Pledge</i>	<i>Type of training</i>	<i>Places</i>	<i>Scheduled training time</i>	<i>Duration of training</i>	<i>Applications received</i>
12 January 2024	Government of India (readvertised)	Polymetallic nodules	Yes	Theoretical and practical training	5	September 2024	2 months	14
12 January 2024	Government of India (replacement)	Polymetallic sulphides	Yes	On-land training	1	September 2024	2 months	14
10 October 2024	Government of India	Polymetallic sulphides	Yes	At-sea	5	March 2025	40 days	7
28 June 2024	Beijing Pioneer Hi-Tech Development Corporation	Polymetallic nodules	Yes	Fellowship	5	October 2024	3-months	14
15 March 2024	Institut français de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer	Polymetallic nodules	Yes	Internship	2	May 2025	2-months	36
19 July 2024	Tonga Offshore Mining Limited	Polymetallic nodules	Yes	At-sea on-board training	1	June 2025	60 days	16
19 November 2024	Cook Islands Investment Corporation	Polymetallic nodules	Yes	Deep Dive (Dive 2)	2	January 2025	3 months	5
			Yes	APEC Dredging Seminar	2	June 2025	2 weeks	30
			Yes	Master's Fellowship	1	September 2025	2 years	26
27 May 2024	Japan Organization for Metals and Energy Security	Cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts	Yes	On-land & at-sea on-board training	5	Between May & July 2025	40 days	81
4 November 2024	Government of the Republic of Korea	Polymetallic sulphides	Yes	At-sea on-board training	4	Between May & June 2025	23 and 15 days	15
6 February 2025	Institut français de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer	Polymetallic sulphides	Yes	At-sea engineering training	1	July 2025	6 days	7

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11 February 2025	Government of the Republic of Korea	Polymetallic sulphides	Yes	At-sea on-board training	4	Mid-August or mid-September 2025	23 and 15 days	15
26 February 2025	Institut français de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer	Polymetallic sulphides	Yes	At-sea engineering training	1	July 2025	6 days	- ^a

Abbreviations: WIDSR, Women in Deep -Sea Research project.

Note: Details of current and past training proposals can be found at <https://isa.org.jm/training/contractor-training>.

^a Owing to the scheduling demands, candidates were selected from the application pool for the Ifremer (PMS) at-sea on-board training submitted on 6 February 2025

Annex II

Results of selections of candidates conducted before part I of the thirtieth session

Government of India (Polymetallic nodules)

Theoretical and practical training

<i>Name</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Country of origin</i>	<i>Country classification</i>
<i>First-ranked candidates</i>			
1. Gideon E Ovwuwonye	Male	Nigeria	
2. January Jocktan Wegoro	Male	United Republic of Tanzania	LDC
3. Mary Dolapo Obasa	Female	Nigeria	
4. Tharindu Dilshan Wijesinghe Liyanapathirannahalage	Male	Sri Lanka	
5. Safidy Ratolonandrasana	Male	Madagascar	LDC
<i>Alternates</i>			
1. Hannington Lai Abong'o	Male	Kenya	
2. Shabani Athumani Kafuluma	Male	United Republic of Tanzania	LDC
3. Thomas Becker Paschal	Male	United Republic of Tanzania	LDC
4. Jamiu Alani Sikiru	Male	Nigeria	

The Government of India (Polymetallic sulphides)

On-land Training (replacement candidate)

<i>Name</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Country of origin</i>	<i>Country classification</i>
<i>First-ranked candidates</i>			
1. Abubakar Muhammad Tahir	Male	Nigeria	
<i>Alternates</i>			
1. Giovanni P. Brown	Male	Jamaica	SIDS

At-sea on-board Training

<i>Name</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Country of origin</i>	<i>Country classification</i>
<i>First-ranked candidates</i>			
1. Olugbenga Bolupe Jesutowol	Male	Nigeria	
2. Nothando M Duma	Female	South Africa	
3. Abdulrahman Muhammad Yakura	Male	Nigeria	
4. Godwin Mzumbi Mnyika	Male	Kenya	
5. Ahmed Inal	Male	Algeria	
<i>Alternates</i>			
1. Michael Kangutu	Male	Algeria	

Beijing Pioneer Hi-Tech Development Corporation (Polymetallic nodules)
Fellowship

<i>Name</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Country of origin</i>	<i>Country classification</i>
<i>First-ranked candidates</i>			
1. Abdirizak Mohamed Ali	Male	Somalia	LDC
2. Feisal Dirgantara	Male	Indonesia	
3. Idoko Ogbe	Male	Nigeria	
4. Usman Abubakar	Male	Nigeria	
5. Denis Mogusu	Male	Kenya	
<i>Alternates</i>			
1. Osakpolor Marvellous Omorogieva	Male	Nigeria	

Institut français de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer (Polymetallic nodules)
Internships

<i>Name</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Country of origin</i>	<i>Country classification</i>
<i>First-ranked candidates</i>			
1. Chaitanya Katharoyan	Female	South Africa	
2. Angela Nyangwe	Female	Kenya	

Alternates

1. Md Saeduzzaman Faraji	Male	Bangladesh	LDC
2. Michael P Ebenyi	Male	Nigeria	

Cook Islands Investment Corporation (CIIC) (Polymetallic nodules)
Deep Dive (Dive 2)

<i>Name</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Country of origin</i>	<i>Country classification</i>
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First-ranked candidate

1. Rabiatsu Abubakar	Female	Ghana	
2. Abraham Wokea Nnokam	Male	Nigeria	

Alternates

2. Chinenye O Aja-Nwachuku	Female	Nigeria	
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APEC Dredging Seminar

<i>Name</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Country of origin</i>	<i>Country classification</i>
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First-ranked candidate

1. Alexis Marie C Malibong	Female	Philippines	
2. Cyril Kariuki	Male	Kenya	

Alternates

1. Michael Ngbede Oyaje	Male	Nigeria	
2. Abraham Wokea Nnokam	Male	Nigeria	

Master's Fellowship

<i>Name</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Country of origin</i>	<i>Country classification</i>
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First-ranked candidate

1. Aiyush Prasad	Male	Fiji	SIDS
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Alternate

1. Senuri Siyathma Munasinghe Kodikara	Female	Sri Lanka	
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Japan Organization for Metals and Energy Security (cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts)

On-land and At-sea on-board training

<i>Name</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Country of origin</i>	<i>Country classification</i>
<i>First-ranked candidates</i>			
1. Joselline Quijada	Female	Chile	
2. Rachel Sabuni	Female	United Republic of Tanzania	LDC
3. Kritanol Naewboonnien	Male	Thailand	
4. Olusola R Ashiru	Female	Nigeria	
5. Amarachi P Onyena	Female	Nigeria	
<i>Alternates</i>			
1. Gideon E Ovwuwonye	Male	Nigeria	
2. Abdirizak Mohamed Ali	Male	Somalia	LDC

Government of the Republic of Korea (polymetallic sulphides)

At-sea on-board training (Geophysics)

<i>Name</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Country of origin</i>	<i>Country classification</i>
<i>First-ranked candidate</i>			
1. Moses U Ohwo	Male	Nigeria	
2. Doreen Bekoe	Female	Ghana	
<i>Alternates</i>			
1. Hood Yassin Mallah	Male	United Republic of Tanzania	LDC
2. Abdullahi S. Sa'ad	Male	Nigeria	

At-sea on-board training (Geology or Marine Sciences)

<i>Name</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Country of origin</i>	<i>Country classification</i>
<i>First-ranked candidate</i>			
1. Mihajatiana Manantsoa	Female	Madagascar	LDC

2. Marina Arbex de Castro Lima	Female	Brazil
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Alternates

1. Taekabu Tebwaraina	Female	Kiribati	SIDS/LDC
2. Michael N Mateus	Male	Namibia	

Abbreviations: LDC, least developed country; SIDS, small island developing State.

Annex III

Results of selections of candidates conducted during part I of the thirtieth session

Institut français de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer (Polymetallic sulphides)

At-sea "engineering" training

<i>Name</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Country of origin</i>	<i>Country classification</i>
<i>First-ranked candidates</i>			
1. Michael Ngbede Oyake	Male	Nigeria	
2. Jose Cifuentes	Male	Chile	
<i>Alternates</i>			
1. Abraham Wokea Nnokam	Male	Nigeria	
2. Henry Chukwuemeka Okonkwo	Male	Nigeria	

Government of the Republic of Korea (Cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts)

At-sea on-board training - Marine geology

<i>Name</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Country of origin</i>	<i>Country classification</i>
<i>First-ranked candidates</i>			
1. Malena P Palmieri	Female	Brazil	
<i>Alternates</i>			
1. Morad Taher	Male	Morocco	
2. Hood Yassin Mallah	Male	United Republic of Tanzania	LDC
3. Mohamed Abdelnassir Shehata Mahran	Male	Egypt	

At-sea on-board training - Marine sciences/biology

<i>Name</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Country of origin</i>	<i>Country classification</i>
<i>First-ranked candidates</i>			
1. Asmaa Ali Saleh Ferikh	Female	Egypt	

Alternates

1. Abu Sharif Md. Mahbub-E-Kibria	Male	Bangladesh	LDC
2. Farah Ahmed Gutale	Male	Somalia	LDC
3. Glory K John	Male	Nigeria	

Abbreviation: LDC, least developed country.