



Legal and Technical Commission

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Legal and Technical Commission, part II

Kingston, 23 June 2025–4 July 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 period following the first part of the thirtieth session, held in March 2025, a total of 37 training opportunities were offered by eight contractors pursuant to their contracts for exploration with the International Seabed Authority (see annex I). These placements comprised:

(a) One autonomous underwater vehicle deep sea technical training course offered by Marawa Research and Exploration Ltd. pursuant to its contract for polymetallic nodules;

(b) Five autonomous underwater vehicle training placements offered by Nauru Ocean Resources Inc. (NORI) under its contract for polymetallic nodules;

(c) Two autonomous underwater vehicle training placements offered by Tonga Offshore Mining Limited under its contract for polymetallic nodules;

(d) One at-sea on-board training placement by the Institut français de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer (Ifremer) under its contract for polymetallic sulphides;

(e) Three fellowship training placements offered by the China Minmetals Corporation under its contract for polymetallic nodules;

(f) Two fellowship training placements offered by the China Ocean Mineral Resources Research and Development Association (COMRA) under its contract for polymetallic sulphides;

(g) Six engineering training placements offered by COMRA under its contract for polymetallic nodules;

(h) Eight fellowship training placements offered by COMRA under its contract for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts;



(i) Four at-sea on-board training placements offered by the Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources of Germany under its contract for polymetallic nodules;

(j) Five on-land and at-sea on-board training placements offered by the Japan Organization for Metals and Energy Security under its contract for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts.

2. To accommodate scheduling demands for the training programmes, the Legal and Technical Commission, prior to the commencement of the second part of the thirtieth session and in accordance with the recommendations of the training subgroup, selected 12 candidates for the training programmes offered by Marawa Research and Exploration Ltd., NORI, Tonga Offshore Mining Limited, Ifremer and the China Minmetals Corporation (see annex II).

3. During the second part of the thirtieth session, the selection of candidates was conducted by the Commission for the remaining 25 training opportunities offered by three contractors, namely COMRA, under its contracts for polymetallic sulphides, polymetallic nodules and cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts, the Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources of Germany and the Japan Organization for Metals and Energy Security (see annexes I and III).

4. Candidates were selected on the basis of 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, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, 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 March 2025, regionally, of the 37 selected first-ranked candidates, 26 were from the Group of African States, 8 from the Group of Asia-Pacific States and 3 from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States. A further breakdown shows that nine were from least developed countries, one was from a least developed and landlocked developing country, and one was from a small island developing State (see annexes II and III).

6. Contractors continue to contribute positively to the implementation of the Women in Deep-Sea Research project,¹ with only one remaining to join the pledge. For the current reporting period, all eight contractors pledged 50 per cent of their training opportunities to suitably qualified women, where possible (see annex I). Among the first-ranked candidates, 46 per cent (17) were women (see annexes II and III).

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

Annex I

Training proposals offered by contractors for which the selection process was completed

<i>Date of receipt</i>	<i>Contractor</i>	<i>Exploration contract</i>	<i>Women in Deep-Sea Research pledge</i>	<i>Type of training</i>	<i>Places</i>	<i>Scheduled training time</i>	<i>Duration of training</i>	<i>Applications received</i>
19 December 2024	Marawa Research and Exploration Ltd.	Polymetallic nodules	Yes	Autonomous underwater vehicle deep sea technical training course	1	October 2025	20 days	22
28 November 2024	Nauru Ocean Resources Inc.	Polymetallic nodules	Yes	Autonomous underwater vehicle deep sea technical training course	5	October 2025	20 days	56
28 November 2024	Tonga Offshore Mining Limited	Polymetallic nodules	Yes	Autonomous underwater vehicle deep sea technical training course	2	October 2025	20 days	26
17 January 2025	Institut français de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer	Polymetallic sulphides	Yes	At-sea on-board training	1	Between February and June 2026	45 days	24
3 March 2025	China Minmetals Corporation	Polymetallic nodules	Yes	Fellowship	3	July–December 2025	3 months	17
24 March 2025	China Ocean Mineral Resources Research and Development Association	Polymetallic sulphides	Yes	Fellowship	2	September–October 2025	3 months	17
		Polymetallic nodules	Yes	Engineering	6	September–October 2025	1 month	28
		Cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts	Yes	Fellowship	8	September–October 2025	3 months	31
27 January 2025	Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources of Germany	Polymetallic nodules	Yes	At-sea on-board training	4	28 December 2025–19 February 2026	52 days	62
23 April 2025	Japan Organization for Metals and Energy Security	Cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts	Yes	On-land and at-sea Training	5	Between May and July 2026	40 days	36

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

Annex II

Results of the selection of candidates conducted before the second part of the thirtieth session

Marawa Research and Exploration Ltd. (polymetallic nodules)

Autonomous underwater vehicle deep sea technical training course

<i>Name</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Country of origin</i>	<i>Country classification</i>
<i>First-ranked candidate</i>			
1. Samuel Obeng Boamah	Male	Ghana	
<i>Alternates</i>			
1. Michael C. Okere	Male	Nigeria	
2. Abdulhafeez A. Hamza	Male	Nigeria	
3. Abraham Wokea Nnokam	Male	Nigeria	

Nauru Ocean Resources Inc. (polymetallic nodules)

Autonomous underwater vehicle deep sea technical training course

<i>Name</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Country of origin</i>	<i>Country classification</i>
<i>First-ranked candidates</i>			
1. Atilade Adesina Popoola	Male	Nigeria	
2. Sharon Jepkirui	Female	Kenya	
3. Comfort Opoku	Female	Ghana	
4. Chidinma Mirian Okoro	Female	Nigeria	
5. Subhasinghe Arachchilage Subhasinghe	Male	Sri Lanka	
<i>Alternates</i>			
1. Abdulhafeez A. Hamza	Male	Nigeria	
2. Mary Dolapo Obasa	Female	Nigeria	
3. Diluka D. B. Thibbotumunuwe	Male	Sri Lanka	
4. Ali Jan Essa	Male	Pakistan	

Tonga Offshore Mining Limited (polymetallic nodules)

Autonomous underwater vehicle deep sea technical training course

<i>Name</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Country of origin</i>	<i>Country classification</i>
<i>First-ranked candidates</i>			
1. Solomon Mtengo Gona	Male	Kenya	
2. Mohamed Abdelnassir Shehata Mahran	Male	Egypt	
<i>Alternates</i>			
1. Eranda Virajith Iddamalgoda	Male	Sri Lanka	
2. Nikolasi Fetaiaki Moeata Heni	Male	Tonga	SIDS
3. Reuben Josephat Mdoe	Male	United Republic of Tanzania	LDC

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

At-sea on-board training

<i>Name</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Country of origin</i>	<i>Country classification</i>
<i>First-ranked candidate</i>			
1. Joselline V. Quijada	Female	Chile	
<i>Alternates</i>			
1. Faith Jelimo Kibor	Female	Kenya	
2. Kaylee P. Smit	Female	South Africa	
3. Khan Mohammad Mozammel Hossain	Male	Bangladesh	LDC

China Minmetals Corporation (polymetallic nodules)

Fellowships

<i>Name</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Country of origin</i>	<i>Country classification</i>
<i>First-ranked candidates</i>			
1. Mehreen Ashraf	Female	Pakistan	
2. Annie R. Sung	Female	Indonesia	
3. Godwin E. Ikwutah	Male	Nigeria	

<i>Name</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Country of origin</i>	<i>Country classification</i>
<i>Alternates</i>			
1. Hood Yassin Mallah	Male	United Republic of Tanzania	LDC
2. Aidah Abdul Wahid	Female	Pakistan	
3. Umar Maibeti	Male	Nigeria	

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

Annex III

Results of the selection of candidates conducted during the second part of the thirtieth session

China Ocean Mineral Resources Research and Development Association (polymetallic sulphides)

Fellowship

<i>Name</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Country of origin</i>	<i>Country classification</i>
<i>First-ranked candidates</i>			
1. Mohammad O. F. Khan	Male	Bangladesh	LDC
2. Hood Yassin Mallah	Male	United Republic of Tanzania	LDC
<i>Alternates</i>			
1. Inyang Essien Inyang	Male	Nigeria	
2. Gideon E. Ovwuonye	Male	Nigeria	

China Ocean Mineral Resources Research and Development Association (polymetallic nodules)

Engineering training

<i>Name</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Country of origin</i>	<i>Country classification</i>
<i>First-ranked candidates</i>			
1. Adolphus M. G. D. Gleekia	Male	Liberia	LDC
2. Allake Yasminan Maguidi	Female	Benin	LDC
3. Denis Aryatwijuka	Male	Uganda	LDC/LLDC
4. Cyril Gachii Kariuki	Male	Kenya	
5. Safiyanu Yau Shafiu	Male	Nigeria	
6. Wowagbi Russell Komi Loko	Male	Togo	LDC
<i>Alternates</i>			
1. Samuel Kakra Boamah	Male	Ghana	
2. Richard Aidoo	Male	Ghana	
3. Kiamuke Itiowe	Male	Nigeria	

China Ocean Mineral Resources Research and Development Association (cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts)

Fellowships

<i>Name</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Country of origin</i>	<i>Country classification</i>
<i>First-ranked candidates</i>			
1. Praise Ekponwen Orobosa	Female	Nigeria	
2. Bertha Tuvangapi Shifeta	Female	Namibia	
3. Cynthia Merab Ooko	Female	Kenya	
4. Stephanie I Otoabasi-Akpan	Female	Nigeria	
5. Gabriel Blamo Saydee JR	Male	Liberia	LDC
6. Abdirahman H Mohamed	Male	Somalia	LDC
7. Shahzad Ismail	Male	Pakistan	
8. Mounjouhou Mahomed Aziz	Male	Cameroon	
<i>Alternates</i>			
1. Ralph Carlo T. Evidente	Male	Philippines	
2. Patience Makungu	Female	Kenya	

Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources of Germany (polymetallic nodules)

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. Asma Damghi	Female	Morocco	
2. Stacy A. Ballyram	Female	Trinidad and Tobago	SIDS
3. Eduardo C. Pinheiro	Male	Brazil	
4. Araf Laerosa	Female	Thailand	
<i>Alternates</i>			
1. Justin Jorge R. Padre	Male	Philippines	
2. Ogechukwu Chinelo Iwu	Female	Nigeria	
3. Heitor Valentim R. V. Rampini Veiga	Male	Brazil	

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. Diah Ayu Rahmalia	Female	Indonesia	
2. Abasiama Okon Ituen	Male	Nigeria	
3. Ernest Stephano Mulaya	Male	United Republic of Tanzania	LDC
4. Helen O. Awe-peter	Female	Nigeria	
5. Shahida Akter Shahida	Female	Bangladesh	LDC
<i>Alternates</i>			
1. Kamruzzaman Kamruzzaman	Male	Bangladesh	LDC
2. Oluwasegun Mustapha Oyetoke	Male	Nigeria	
3. Aliyu Ibrahim	Male	Nigeria	
4. Theresa Muiyiwa Oguntimehin	Female	Nigeria	
5. Kelvin Kariuki Muli	Male	Kenya	

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