



Inaugural Hydrography Day in the Republic of Korea

Kingston, Jamaica (Virtual)

20 June 2021

Statement by Mr. Michael W. Lodge,

Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority

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Greetings from Jamaica.

On this World Hydrography Day, I am delighted to send this brief video message to the Korea Hydrographic and Oceanographic Agency.

As well as being World Hydrography Day, this is also the first Hydrography Day in the Republic of Korea. I wish to congratulate the organizers on this important initiative, which coincides with new national legislation on Hydrographic Survey and Oceanographic Observations and the Use of Ocean Information.

I also send warm greetings to His Excellency Seong-Hyeok Moon, Minister of Oceans and Fisheries.

The International Seabed Authority has established an excellent working relationship with the Republic of Korea on many different issues relating to the law of the sea, marine science and deep sea exploration. We also have a close working relationship with the International Hydrographic Organization, and we fully recognize the critical importance of hydrographic survey and bathymetric data to obtaining a sound scientific understanding of the ocean.

As part of our collaboration with IHO, ISA has been working closely with ISA exploration contractors, including the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries and KIOST, to develop the necessary protocols to provide high resolution bathymetric data collected by contractors to IHO as a contribution towards the Seabed 2030 project, which is aimed at producing a definitive map of the world ocean floor by 2030. We are pleased to see that contractors recognize the importance of this initiative and have committed to work closely with ISA in its implementation.

I very much welcome the interest of the Korea Hydrographic and Oceanographic Agency in the work of ISA and can assure you that we are ready to discuss future cooperation to create greater awareness of the importance of sharing of bathymetric and oceanographic data.

I wish you a very good celebration of the first Hydrography Day of the Republic of Korea.
