



ISA-China Joint Training and Research Centre Launching Ceremony

Kingston, Jamaica

9 November 2020

VIRTUAL MEETING

By Mr. Michael W. Lodge,
Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority

.....
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure that I join you to today, even remotely, to formally launch the ISA-China Joint Training and Research Centre, established on the basis of the memorandum of understanding approved by the Assembly of the Authority in July 2019 and signed few months later in Qingdao.

I want to express my sincere gratitude to Mr Wang Hong, Administrator of the State Oceanic Administration as well as his Excellency Tian Qi, Permanent Representative of China to ISA for their leadership and support in making this initiative possible.

I also wish to thank all the steering committee members for accepting to give of their time to contribute to implement, through this new partnership, the mandate of the Authority. I am especially grateful to Dr Jihyun Lee, Director of the ISA Office of Environmental Management and Mineral Resources, for accepting to act as my representative on the steering committee of the JTTC.

The Joint Training and Research Centre will certainly be essential in the operationalization of the role and the responsibilities given to the Authority by the United Nations convention on the Law of the Sea for the years to come and am confident that by joining hands we will significantly contribute to enhance the technical and scientific capacity of developing States, members of ISA, in deep-sea research. This has been a priority for me since I took office four years ago and am committed to make sure that this strategic priority gets the attention it deserves.

Therefore, I trust that through this unique and unprecedented platform that will foster international cooperation, both ISA and China will continue to strive to make the ideal of solidarity and equity embedded in the concept of the common heritage of mankind a reality.

I am also confident that with the experience and the expertise of all the steering committee members, we will be able to develop jointly, a work plan aligned with the Strategic Plan and the High-Level Action Plan of ISA as well as the six Strategic Research Priorities of the Authority's Action Plan for the UN Decade of Ocean Science and which will be centred on the priority needs identified by developing States themselves, member of ISA.

I thank you.
