

**Remarks by Ambassador TIAN Qi,  
Permanent Representative of China to the International  
Seabed Authority (ISA) at the Launching Ceremony of the  
China-ISA Joint Training and Research Center (JTRC)**

November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Respected Mr. Michael Lodge, Secretary-General of the ISA,

Mr. WANG Hong, Vice Minister of Natural Resources and Administrator of the State Oceanic Administration (SOA) of China,

Mr. GOU Haibo, Counsellor of the Department of Treaty and Law, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China,

Mr. LIU Feng, Director of the China Deep Ocean Affairs Administration,

Madame GU Wu, Director of JTRC,

Ladies and gentlemen, greetings to you!

It' s my pleasure to attend the virtual launch of the China-ISA Joint Training and Research Centre (JTRC). In July 2019, at the 25th Assembly of the ISA, I had the pleasure of joining you for witnessing the ratification of the MOU between the Chinese Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) and the ISA for the establishment of the JTRC. It was the first MOU between the ISA and a member state. Today' s ceremony marks the formal launch of the first JTRC by the ISA and a member state.

The establishment of the JTRC is not only necessitates by the objectives of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea for international cooperation in capacity-building, marine scientific research and the development of marine technology, but is also an important initiative for implementing the ISA' s Strategic Pan for the period 2019-2023. The JTRC is set up as a training ground for professionals from developing countries on international seabed affairs and a platform for different stakeholders to jointly conduct marine scientific research. The JTRC aims to enhance the capacities of developing countries, including landlocked and geographically disadvantaged states, small island

developing states and least developed countries, for participating in international seabed affairs broadly and to support and promote the adoption of the principle of the “common heritage of mankind” (CHM). I am confident that, under the guidance of its Steering Committee, the JTRC will overcome many challenges, not the least the COVID-19 pandemic and organize and implement relevant training and research programs with flexibility and diversity so as to benefit developing states sooner. It will effectively live up to its role as a joint training and research center to enhance the capacity of developing states to participate in international seabed affairs and contribute to the advancement of deep-sea affairs.

As a witness, participant and contributor, China has remained deeply involved in international seabed affairs, and China’s visions of “a community with a shared future for mankind” and “a maritime community with a shared future” are highly aligned with the CHM principle followed by the ISA. I encourage the China-ISA JTRC to uphold the principles of “joint consultation, joint contribution, shared benefits and win-win cooperation”, work with the ISA and other stakeholders to enhance capacity building for developing countries and promote the development of marine research, and make a positive contribution to building a maritime community with a shared future and advancing the common interests of mankind.

Thank you.