

**Remarks by Madame GU Wu,
Director of the China-ISA Joint Training and Research Center
(JTRC) at the Launching Ceremony of the JTRC**

Respected WANG Hong, Vice Minister of Natural Resources and Administrator of the State Oceanic Administration (SOA) of China,
Mr. Michael Lodge, Secretary-General of the ISA,
Ambassador TIAN Qi, Chinese Ambassador to Jamaica and Permanent Representative of China to the ISA,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Greetings!

Today we're witnessing the official launch of the ISA-China Joint Training and Research Centre (JTRC). On behalf of the National Deep Sea Center of China (NDSC), I would like to extend a warm welcome and heartfelt thanks to all the leaders and distinguished guests. Thank you for joining us in celebrating this momentous launch of the JTRC. On behalf of the NDSC, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Ministry of Natural Resources for its trust in the NDSC and to the China Deep Ocean Affairs Administration (CDOAA) for its long-standing guidance and support. We would also like to express our sincere gratitude to the ISA for giving the JTRC such a valuable opportunity to contribute on talent training, scientific research, and exchanges and cooperation in relation to international deep sea affairs.

The NDSC is a multi-purpose and fully open national public service platform, equipped with various laboratories and excellent conference, catering, and expert accommodation facilities. We own the 4,000-ton Shenhai Yihao (DeepSea No.1) manned submersible mothership, the Xiangyanghong 81 nearshore research vessel and a fleet of deep-sea submersibles including manned submersibles, ROVs, AUVs and underwater gliders. We also have a professional and complete talent team. Since our inception, the NDSC has carried out extensive work in mineral exploration and environmental surveys in the Area. Our work has led to new breakthroughs in deep-sea science and knowledge. We are also actively conducting research on the draft regulations for the exploitation of mineral resources in the Area and on capacity building for the ISA. All of this has laid a solid foundation for the establishment and operation of the JTRC.

Since the beginning of 2020, the NDSC has worked extensively towards the establishment of the JTRC. We have drafted protocols and plans related to the setup and operation of the JTRC. We have conducted several rounds of consultations with the China Deep Ocean Affairs Administration and the ISA Secretariat to make progress on the JTRC. Although we were unable to host international experts and trainees in Qingdao, China for field training and exchange due to COVID-19, we never stopped working. Meanwhile, given the impact of COVID-19 on the world, we have also been exploring more flexible approaches to training and research, so that the JTRC can adapt to the new norms and new challenges, and contribute as soon as possible.

In future, underlined by the principles of "joint consultation, joint contribution, shared benefits and win-win cooperation" and under the leadership of the MNR and the ISA and the specific guidance of the JTRC Steering Committee, we will set up and run the JTRC in accordance with international standards, select trainers and experts from relevant fields around the world, and provide deep-sea science, technology and policy training to developing members. We will conduct joint research in high-interest fields of the international seabed such as deep-sea environment and ecology, deep-sea mining and deep-sea technologies to inform relevant policies. We also hope to organize a wide variety of workshops, high-level fora and other events and activities to promote

exchanges and cooperation in international seabed affairs.

We believe the dark clouds of COVID-19 will eventually clear up, and spring will surely arrive, bringing renewed vigor and vitality to the human society. I sincerely invite international seabed experts and colleagues who are interested in making a difference to the deep sea to visit us in Qingdao, China in the future for exchanging ideas and mutual progress. We will make the JTRC a center of excellence, getting better and better.

Thank you.