

Remarks by Vice Minister WANG Hong of MNR (SOA) at the Launching Ceremony of the China-ISA JTRC

Respected Mr. Michael Lodge, Secretary-General of the ISA,
Ambassador TIAN Qi,
Ladies and gentlemen, friends,

A warm welcome to all of you.

It's my pleasure to attend the virtual launch of the ISA-China Joint Training and Research Centre (JTRC). Please allow me to extend my sincere greetings to you all on behalf of the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) and State Oceanic Administration (SOA) of China. We are holding today's event in an on-site plus online format. It clearly shows that although COVID-19 has made it more difficult for us to meet physically, it has in no way undermined the willingness and determination of the Chinese government and the International Seabed Authority (ISA) to jointly promote international efforts to strengthen research and cooperation in deep-sea science, technology and policy.

We recall on October 18th, 2019 in Beijing, the MNR (SOA) and the ISA signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the establishment of the ISA-China Joint Training and Research Centre (JTRC), which was an important step for China to enforce the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, implement the Belt and Road Initiative and its principles of "joint consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits", and promote global marine cooperation.

The China-ISA JTRC will provide developing states with professional training in deep-sea science, technology and management to further enhance their capacity to participate in international seabed affairs. It will also support relevant research cooperation and facilitate scientific exchanges, technical cooperation and commercialization of research results through a diverse range of activities, such as thematic symposia and high-level fora. I believe that the launch of the JTRC will provide a new platform for the international community, especially developing members, to conduct activities in the international seabed area, further promote capacity building and exchanges in marine science and technology between China and other developing states, and advance and disseminate humanity's knowledge and understanding of the world under water.

Ladies and gentlemen, friends,

Over the years, thanks to the strong support of the ISA, China has been deeply involved in international seabed activities and has made many achievements and gained a wealth of experience in the surveying and exploration of deep-sea mining sites. At the same time, we have actively supported and adopted the environmental principles advocated by the ISA, actively participated in the international seabed Regional Environmental Management Plan (REMP), proposed for the first time the REMP for the western Pacific, and carried out meaningful cooperation with other contractors in the area. On behalf of the MNR (SOA), I would like to express our sincere gratitude to the ISA and Mr. Secretary-General for your guidance and assistance. We look forward to working with the ISA to further improve mankind's understanding, knowledge, protection and utilization of the international seabed and play a bigger role in building a community with a shared future for mankind.

Thank you.