

***Statement by H.E. Mr. Yamazaki,
Permanent Representative of Japan
to the International Seabed Authority
on Agenda Item 8: Annual Report of the Secretary-General
at the Assembly of the twenty-fourth session
of the International Seabed Authority
Kingston, 24 July 2018***

Thank you Mr. President.

At the outset, on behalf of my delegation, I would like to express my sincere congratulations upon your election as the President of the Assembly of the 24th session of the International Seabed Authority. Let me also use this opportunity to congratulate the Vice-Presidents upon their elections.

I would like to express our deep appreciation to the Government of Jamaica for its hospitality in hosting this session of the Authority.

At this juncture let me express sincere appreciation to the Secretary-General, Mr. Michael Lodge, for his report which covers the activities undertaken by the Authority during the past year.

Mr. President,

As a maritime state, Japan attaches great importance to the sound development of maritime order based on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). We strongly support the role played by the Authority in the international management of the exploration for and exploitation of the mineral resources in the Area. Japan highly values the Authority's steady implementation of its mission in accordance with the Convention and the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the Convention, including the development of the draft Regulations on Exploitation of Mineral Resources in the Area.

Furthermore, Japan fully appreciates that the Authority has been steadily proceeding with the work towards the adoption of the Regulations on Exploitation.

This will be a new step towards its principal aim of the exploitation of the resources in the Area, which is an important mission for ISA and also dream of mankind for long. Japan will continue to constructively engage in the work of the Authority to formulate reasonable regulations on mineral exploitation, properly striking a balance between exploitation and environmental considerations.

Japan considers appropriate sharing of mineral resources in the Area as “the common heritage of mankind” presupposes the entry of ample number of companies to the deep-sea mining industry in the Area. Therefore, I would like to stress that the discussion on the draft Regulation of Exploitation needs to be made based on the accurate evaluation on its economic efficiency with the knowledge of experts, taking into consideration the technical and economic difficulties in exploiting mineral resources in the Area.

The Japanese Government as a whole is making efforts to establish technologies for excavating ocean mineral resources and develop the environmental impact assessment technology for ocean resources exploitation. In the side event held last week, Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation (JOGMEC) shared its experience drawn from the world’s first-ever pilot test of excavating, ore lifting and environmental impact assessment conducted by Japan under the sea area near Japan. In addition, Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC) and the National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES) presented the technologies related to environmental impact assessment. We believe that they are also useful for the developing countries. Japan would like to contribute to the development of mineral resources in the Area by the entire international community through these technologies.

Mr. President,

One of the Japan’s contractors, the JOGMEC invited 4 trainees for over a month to participate in training programme which includes an at-sea training between May and June, 2018. Additionally, another contractor, Deep Ocean Resources Development (DORD) plans to offer a similar training programme for 5 trainees in July-August next year. Japan hopes that these trainees will take full advantage of the training programme and play active roles in maritime affairs in their home countries.

Japan has served as a Council member since the establishment of the

Authority. It has contributed as its largest financial contributor and through the consistent provision of competent members to the Legal and Technical Commission and the Finance Committee.

Japan will continue to support the Authority, whose importance is ever increasing in terms of human and financial resources. In closing, I would like to reiterate Japan's continued commitment to the establishment and advancement of legal order in the Area through the Authority.

Thank you Mr. President.

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