



INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY *NEWS*

ISSUE 5: JUNE 2016

ISA 22nd Annual Session Begins 11 July 2016

The Authority's 22nd Annual Session will be held in Kingston, Jamaica from 11-22 July 2016. The Session will be preceded by meetings of the Legal and Technical Commission and the Finance Committee from 4-8 July.

Legal and Technical Commission

Election of members of the Legal and Technical Commission will be held during the July Session. As at 11 April 2016, 30 candidates have been submitted by members of the Authority. The candidate list can be downloaded from <http://bit.ly/1UmhpQK>.

The Commission met in February 2016 where it focused on priority items that included applications for extension of contractors for exploration and the preparation of draft regulations for exploitation. It expects to conclude its deliberations on these matters at the July meeting.

Finance Committee

Election of members of the Finance Committee will also be held during the July Session. As at 11 April 2016, 13 candidates have been submitted by members of the Authority. The candidate list can be downloaded from <http://bit.ly/1VlvmK6>.

The Finance Committee will also consider the proposed budget for the financial period 2017/2018 and review the financial statements for 2015-2016.

Council

It is the turn of the Eastern European Group to nominate a candidate for the Presidency. Items on the Council Agenda include the consideration of the report of the Secretary-General on the status of national legislation

relating to deep seabed mining, review of the status of contracts for exploration and consideration of information relating to the periodic review of implementation of plans of works for exploration.

The Secretariat has prepared Conference Room Papers [CRP1](#) and [CRP2](#) to facilitate the forthcoming elections of members of the Council for the period 2017 to 2020. The vacancies in each of the 5 groups are as follows: 2 vacancies in Group A (4 members); 1 vacancy in Group B (4 members); 2 vacancies in Group C (4 members); 3 vacancies in Group D (6 members), and 12 vacancies in Group E (18 members).

The Council will also consider recommendations by the Legal and Technical Commission in relation to applications for extension of contracts for exploration and elect members to the Commission for the next five year term beginning 1 January 2017.

Assembly

The Assembly meetings commence on Tuesday 12 July. It is the turn of the Asia and Pacific Group to nominate a candidate for the Presidency.

The Assembly is also expected to consider the reports of the Finance Committee, elect 15 members of the Committee to serve for the next five year term, consider applications for observer status and consider a [Interim Report](#) and the [Review Committee Comments](#) to oversee a general and systematic review of the manner in which the international regime has operated in practice.

The Assembly will also elect a Secretary-General for the 2017-2020 term.



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE

- 13-17 *United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea*, New York
- 20-24 *Meeting of States Parties to the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea*
Twenty-sixth Meeting, New York
- 27-28 *40th Annual Conference of the Centre for Oceans Law and Policy*, New York

JULY

- 4-8 *Legal & Technical Commission and Finance Committee Meetings*, Kingston
- 11-22 *ISA 22nd Annual Session*, Kingston

AUGUST

- 26-9/9 *2nd Session. Development of international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction*, New York



Ambassador of the Russian Federation Presents Credentials to the ISA Secretary-General



On Wednesday, 8 June 2016, Ambassador Vladimir Vinokurov presented his credentials to Secretary-General Nii Allotey Odunton of the Authority as the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the Authority.

Joining the diplomatic service in 1981, Ambassador Vinokurov has travelled widely on diplomatic postings within Russia and beyond. His most recent posting in 2013 was as Consul General of Russia in San Francisco.

Ambassador Vinokurov holds the diplomatic rank of Envoy Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary. He recently arrived in Kingston to take up his responsibilities as Ambassador at the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Jamaica.

As at 9 June 2016, there are 25 Permanent Missions to the Authority.

They are Argentina, Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Cameroon, Chile, China, Cuba, European Union, France, Gabon, Germany, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Mexico, Nigeria, Panama, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, South Africa, Spain and Trinidad and Tobago.

The Secretary-General hosts briefing sessions with Permanent Representatives prior to the Authority's annual meeting to inform them of the work of the Authority and other matters of substance.

This year's briefing session was held in February 2016 at the ISA headquarters.

The digital newsletter will also be accessible on the ISA App ([iOS/Android](#)).

Opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Authority. Neither does the mention of any firm or licensed process imply endorsement by the Authority.

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China 5th International Symposium on Scientific and Legal Aspects of the Regimes of the Continental Shelf and the Area



China hosted its 5th Symposium on Scientific and Legal Aspects of the Regimes of the Continental Shelf and the Area in May 2016 at Nanjing.

Participating on behalf of the ISA was Secretary-General Nii Odunton, Deputy to the Secretary-General Michael Lodge and Legal Officer, Yongsheng Cai. The ISA joined officials and legal and scientific experts from the UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UNDAOLOS), UN Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS), International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)

In his [address](#), Secretary-General Odunton focused on the application of applied science and in

particular the work of the contractors with the Authority to harness the limited knowledge of the marine environment and its resources to realise the financial benefits to the common heritage of mankind. He said that to address the Authority's responsibilities to administer the resources of the Area for the common heritage of mankind it needed to formulate rules, regulations and procedures for the conduct of activities in the Area and also to establish international rules, regulations and procedures to prevent, reduce and control pollution of the marine environment and adopt measures to protect and conserve the natural resources of the Area and prevent damage to the flora and fauna of the marine environment.

What is the International Seabed Authority Reporting Standard?

The [ISA Reporting Standard](#) is derived from the international reporting template of the [Committee for Mineral Reserves International Reporting Standards](#) (CRIRSCO) and was the main outcome of a [Workshop on Polymetallic Nodules Resource Classification](#) jointly

coordinated by the ISA and the India [Ministry of Earth Sciences](#), in Goa, 2014.

The objective of the workshop ([Briefing Paper 01/2016](#)) was to ascertain the status of work undertaken by contractors for polymetallic nodule exploration in the Area, with a view to standardizing the exploration and resource data required of contractors and to developing guidelines for the classification of mineral resources, and to recommend the adoption of a

standardized template for resource classification for the guidance of contractors.

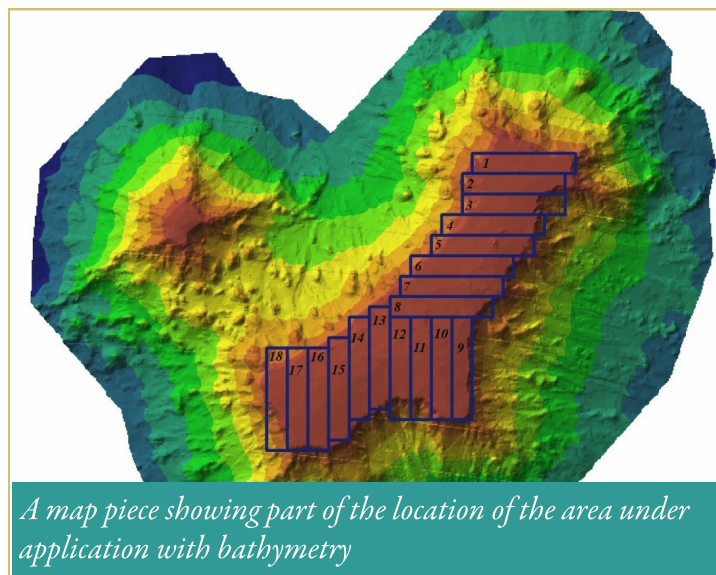
The standard is based on the November 2013 edition of the international reporting template of CRIRSCO, and will ensure that private reports lodged with the ISA follow the same guiding principles and use the same definitions as public reports that comply with reporting standards such as CRIRSCO, JORC, NI 43-101, SAMREC, etc.

Republic of Korea Applies for Approval of Plan of Work for Exploration of Cobalt-Rich Ferromanganese Crusts

On 10 May 2016, the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority received an application for approval of a plan of work for exploration for cobalt-rich ferromanganese Crusts submitted by the government of the Republic of Korea.

The area under application is located east of the Northern Mariana Islands and covers a total of 3,000 square kilometres.

In accordance with the Regulations on Prospecting and Exploration for Cobalt-rich Ferromanganese Crusts in the Area, the members of the Legal and Technical Commission will be notified of the above application and consideration of this application will be placed on the agenda of the Commission at its next meeting, which is scheduled to commence on 4 July 2016.



A map piece showing part of the location of the area under application with bathymetry

ISA Selects Five Candidates for Internships with Ifremer

The ISA Legal and Technical Commission has selected five candidates for internships offered by Institut français de Recherche pour l'Exploitation de la Mer ([Ifremer](#)).

The candidates will participate in a 5-day taxonomy workshop that will be held in Brest, France, from 27 June to the 1 July 2016 as part of the yearly summer schools organized by [LabexMer](#).

The five first-ranked candidates are as follows:

- Mr. Aristide Sorel Tseng Ngongla, Cameroon
- Mr. Dharmendra Pratap Singh, India
- Ms. Lorelie A. Burgos, Philippines
- Ms. Anabela Taverna, Argentina
- Ms. Beatriz Eugenia Mejia, Colombia

Should any of the above candidates be unable to attend the programme, replacements will be selected from the following ranked alternates:

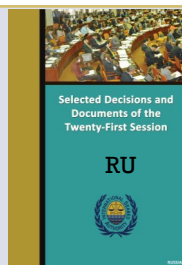
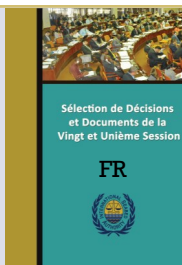
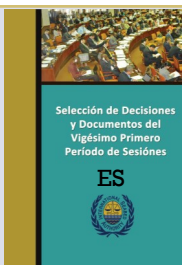
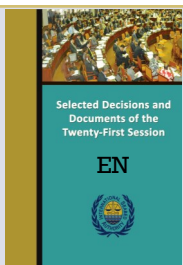
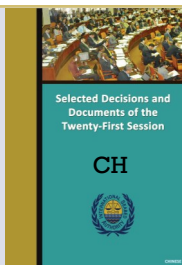
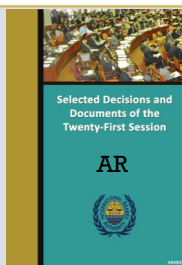
Alternates

1. Ms. Bin Qi Gan, Singapore
2. Ms. Juliana Lopes Segadilha, Brazil
3. Mr. Abdul-Rahman Dirisu, Nigeria
4. Mr. Dongsheng Zhang, China
5. Ms. Huong Thi Lan Tu, Vietnam
6. Ms. Shagnika Das, India
7. Ms. Rachel Bolufe, Cuba
8. Mr. Mostafa Mahmoud, Egypt
9. Mr. Shivanagouda Sanagoudra, India
10. Mr. Sarvanen Curpen, Mauritius

A total of 76 applications from 32 countries were received for the workshop.

The objective of the workshop is to gain experience and learn the basic theoretical and practical skills required to process samples and identify taxa of the benthic meio- and macrofauna. A session will also be dedicated to the deep-sea fauna associated with the nodule fields.

SELECTED
DECISIONS
21ST
SESSION
(2015)



Workshop on Environmental Assessment and Management for Exploitation of Deep Seabed Minerals

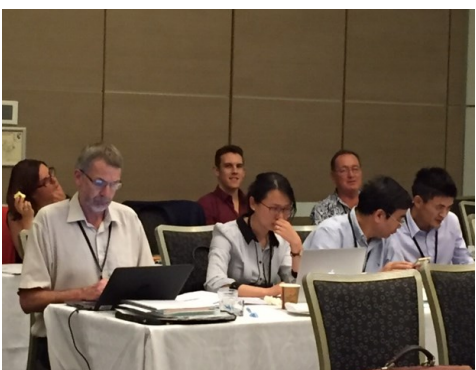


The workshop co-hosted by the Griffith University Law School and the International Seabed Authority (ISA) was convened in Brisbane, Australia from 23-26 May 2016, and funded by the Government of Australia through a Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Australian Development Research Award Scheme grant.

The workshop was attended by 62 participants from a wide range of stakeholders (contractors, industry, civil society, academic scientists, academic lawyers, government agencies, intergovernmental organizations and members of the Legal and Technical Commission) and provided the opportunity for stakeholders to provide advice to the Legal and Technical Commission in time for its deliberations on further development of the regulatory framework for the exploitation of marine minerals at its July 2016 22nd Session in Kingston.



Expert presentations on the first day in plenary included a wide range of complex issues relating to robust environmental assessment and management processes and responses. On subsequent days the workshop was convened into working groups to discuss regulatory issues, working procedures, and suggest the concrete actions required.



The overall objectives of the workshop were to: set out the contours of key definitions underpinning environmental assessment; outline the content of guiding principles required for effective environmental assessment and management and their regulation in the Area; provide an incremental contribution to the development of the environmental regulations for the Area; deliver a recommended outline of content for a proposed EIA process and further develop the ISA EIS template, including new guidelines and evaluation methodology; provide additional contributions, guidance, and recommendations to the LTC as may emerge during discussions; and consider options to continue and harness the engagement and development of all the recommendations beyond the workshop.

Workshop issues were summarized in seven plenary sessions: 1) assessment and monitoring of environmental impacts; 2) application of the precautionary approach; 3) regulatory development; 4) enforcement and liability; 5) experiences on EIAs and EMPs from industry and contractors; 6) assessment and monitoring of impacts; and 7) adaptive management, definitions and general principles. The ISA will be releasing a Briefing Paper and a Technical Study on the outcomes of the workshop in due course.

Hamburg International Environmental Law Conference (HIELC)



ISA interns with Michael Lodge L-R: Xiangxin Xu, Linlin Sun, Aline Jaeckel and Laura Lallier

The ISA Deputy to the Secretary-General, Michael Lodge attended the 3rd [HIELC](#) in Hamburg in April 2016.

He spoke on Environmental Management of Deep Sea Mining (DSM) and was also part of the DSM working group.

The 2016 HIELC programme spanned a broad range of topics under the title "A Sea Change for Sustainable Ocean Resource Governance" with deep sea mining, marine energy generation,

and seabed pipe and cable systems as some of the key topics.

The HIELC brings together scientists, legal practitioners, and officials from all over the world to discuss and contribute to finding solutions for current problems in international environmental law.

Also attending the meetings and representing their various organisations were former ISA interns (pictured left).

MEETINGS...

Biodiversity, Connectivity and Biogeography of the CCZ



Photo by Dr Thomas Dahlgren, Senior Researcher at Uni Research Environment, Norway

In May 2016, a 3-day workshop jointly organised by [MIDAS](#), [JPI Oceans](#), EU, [ABYSSLINE Project](#) with input from ISA was held at the [Natural History Museum](#) in London to discuss the regional biodiversity, connectivity and biogeography of the Clarion-Clipperton Zone (CCZ).

The workshop was organised around three areas: (1) new molecular data on species taxonomy and distributions within and between CCZ exploration zones, (2) new intra-specific population genetic data on 'target taxa' and (3) broader-scale (ocean-basin and global) biogeographic data based on both traditional morphological information and molecular data. The scope of the discussions were taxonomically-focused on metazoan animals, in particular the meiofauna (e.g copepods and nematodes), macrofaunal (e.g polychaetes and molluscs) size classes for which there is the most data, and the larger megafaunal animals which are very difficult to sample in the CCZ (e.g holothurians

and corals).

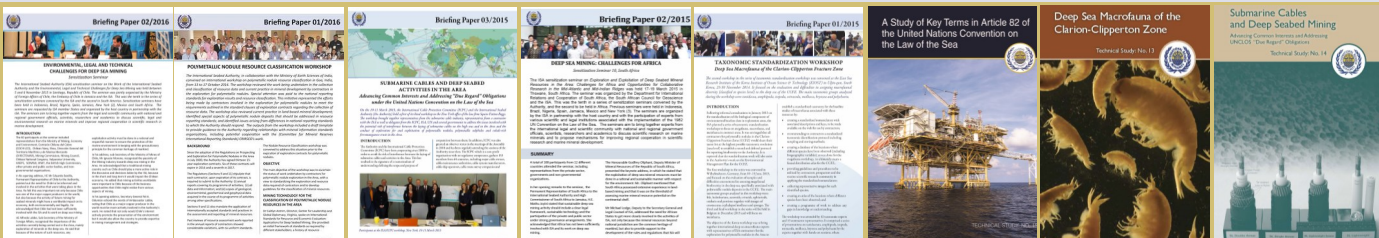
An array of new data were presented from recent cruises and subsequent cruise analysis from the eastern CCZ focused around the exploration zones of the UK, Germany, France, Belgium and Inter-ocean metal (IOM). New DNA sequence data were also presented from all these regions, from a wide-range of taxa and across sampling sites at spatial scales of 10 to 1500km.

A workshop report containing an overview of background, discussion areas, ongoing and planned activities and workshop recommendations of particular value to the ISA and its stakeholders will be published in due course.

From a report written by Dr Adrian Glover, (<http://www.nhm.ac.uk/deep-sea>) Research Leader, National History Museum.

BRIEFING PAPERS

TECHNICAL STUDIES



Biodiversity and Connectivity of Deep Sea Ecosystems Targeted by Deep Sea Mining

In April 2016, [INDEEP](#) and the [ISA Endowment Fund](#) sponsored 28 participants from Namibia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritania and Angola to a workshop at the National Marine Information and Research Centre of the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources headquarters in Swakopmund, Namibia.

Participants were introduced to benthic environments and the associated fauna, the history of deep-sea exploration, animal-sediment interactions, human impacts, sampling and sampling design, metrics used in characterisation of the benthos, ecosystem function and services, life-histories, larval dispersal and connectivity, consideration of mining impacts, management strategies and governance. The teaching comprised a combination of lectures, hands-on investigations of benthic fauna (from meio to megafauna) including boat work, sample processing, laboratory observations, data analysis exercises, discussion groups and feedback presentations by participants.

The extraction of phosphates from the marine environment has yet to commence anywhere in the world. However, it is of increasing international interest as a strategic reserve of agricultural fertilizer. Currently, a high level of scrutiny of the proposed phosphate mining activities is underway for each of the regions under consideration.

In Namibia, a moratorium on phosphate mining has been in place since September 2013 and the governmental evaluation of the recent EIA is about to commence..

The ISA Endowment Fund promotes and encourages the conduct of collaborative marine scientific research in the international seabed area for the benefit of humankind by supporting the participation of qualified scientists and technical personnel from developing countries in marine scientific research programmes and activities and by providing opportunities to these scientists to participate in relevant initiatives.

Current active opportunities under the Endowment Fund include internships in China's Xiamen University and the Dalian Maritime University (flyer) Summer Programmes ([flyer](#)) to be held in July 2016.

*Application deadlines for both the Summer Programmes is **20 June 2016**. For more details visit the Endowment Fund [Opportunities](#) page.*



From INDEEP Workshop Report to the International Seabed Authority. Read the full [Report](#) here.

Capacity Development to Improve the Management of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)



The [Global Ocean Forum](#) organized a workshop on Capacity Development to Improve the Management of Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ): Needs, Experiences, Options, and Opportunities, 18 May - 2 June 2016 in St. George's, Grenada.

ISA's Senior Legal Officer, Sainivalati Navoti was one of the 55 participants representing various stakeholders, including governments, international organizations, civil society and national and regional ocean leaders to: (1) discuss and exchange information and perspectives towards a broader understanding of the needs and opportunities in the development of capacity regarding ABNJ; (2) contribute information on capacity development to the global deliberations towards a legally-binding international instrument on BBNJ under UNCLOS; and (3) formulate next steps in the way forward in advancing capacity development regarding ABNJ, building on past and ongoing initiatives and experiences (especially the outputs of the GEF/FAO Common Oceans Program), and responding to global prescriptions on capacity development regarding marine resources and their management.

Are you attending the ISA's 22nd Annual Session in Kingston?

Here are some links and information that you may find useful:

- [Meeting Schedule/Side Events](#)
- Listing of [Candidates](#) for election to the Legal and Technical Commission and the Listing of [Candidates](#) for election to the Finance Committee
- [Interim Review Report](#) (Article 154) by Seascope Consultants ^{NEW}
- [Review Committee Comments](#) to the Interim Review Report ^{NEW}
- [22nd Session Documents](#) for Assembly, Council, Legal & Technical Commission and the Finance Committee.
- [Visa Note](#)
- Accommodation - click the linked forms below to make reservations
[Liguanea Club](#) | [Knutsford Court](#) | [Jamaica Pegasus](#) | [Courtleigh Hotel](#)
- [Delegations Guidance Note](#)
- [Yellow Fever Alert](#) (From the Jamaica Ministry of Health) ^{NEW}