



INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY *news*

Issue 8: MARCH 2017

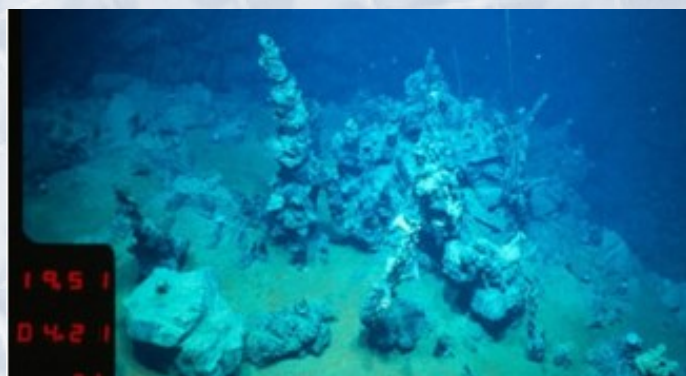
Environmental Management Strategy for the Area Workshop

A workshop on the International Seabed Authority's (ISA) Environmental Management Strategy for the Area will be held in Berlin, Germany from **19-24 March 2017**.

The workshop is jointly organized by the German Environment Agency (UBA) on behalf of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB), the Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR) on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi) and the Secretariat of the ISA. It is supported by the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies Potsdam e.V. (IASS).

The workshop aims to contribute to the work of the ISA in further developing its environmental regulations in relation to activities in the Area.

The workshop will focus on the consideration of ISA's discussion paper containing the draft environmental regulations. It is expected that the outcome of the workshop will provide interdisciplinary and multi-stakeholder perspectives on the draft environmental regulations to contribute to the deliberations of the ISA's Legal and Technical Commission (LTC) during 2017.



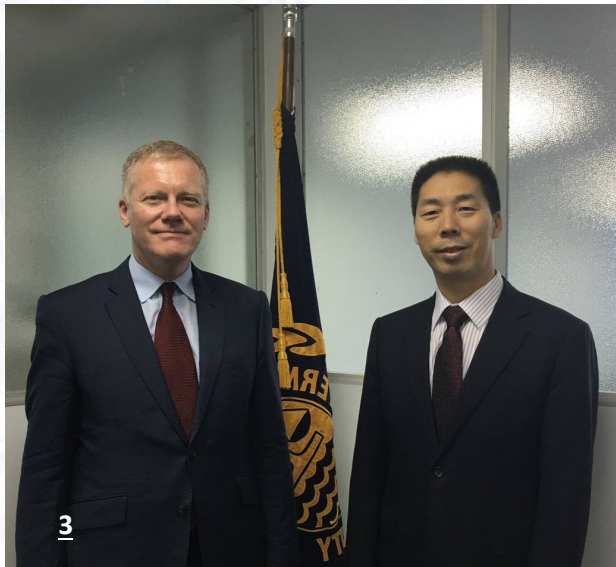
Inactive hydrothermal chimneys on the sea floor of the Lau Basin Source: BGR

Inside this Issue

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|---|--------------------|
| ▶ Protocol & Liaison | 2 | ▶ ISA at IPU, United Nations | 8 |
| ▶ Poland Application | 3 | ▶ Working Experts | 8 |
| ▶ ISA Review Committee | 4 | ▶ Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf | 9 |
| ▶ Legal and Technical Commission | 5 | ▶ ISA in Tokyo, Japan | 10 |
| ▶ Contractor Training Programmes | 6 | ▶ Chile Delegation Visit ISA | 10 |
| ▶ Endowment Fund | 6 | ▶ Reorganization at ISA | 11 |
| ▶ Draft Exploration Regulations | 7 | | |



Protocol



On 11 January 2017, Mrs. Taous **Achab**, of the Embassy of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, presented her credentials as the Permanent Representative to the ISA to Secretary-General, Mr. Michael W. Lodge. 1

Mrs. Taous Achab joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Algeria in 1976 and was appointed as Permanent Representative to the ISA on 18 September 2016.

The Secretary-General congratulated Algeria on establishing a Permanent Mission to the Authority, noting that Algeria had participated in the Assembly

in 2016 and had also been elected to the Council for the period 2017-2020.

Also, in January, Secretary-General Lodge paid a courtesy call to Jamaica's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Kamina **Johnson Smith**. 2

Towards the end of January, Secretary-General Lodge met with Ambassador Niu **Qingbao**, Permanent Representative of China to the Authority. 3

In February, Ambassador Alexandra **Valkenburg Roelofs** of The Netherlands paid a courtesy visit while she was in Jamaica. 4

Workshop : Marine Mineral Resources of Africa

A workshop on Marine Mineral Resources of Africa's Continental Shelf and Adjacent International Seabed Area – Prospects for Sustainable Development of Africa's Maritime Domain, in support of Africa's Blue Economy, will be held in Kampala, Uganda from 2 to 4 May 2017.

The workshop is jointly organized by the Republic of Uganda and the ISA, in partnership with the African Mineral Development Centre (AMDC), the Pew Charitable Trusts and GRID-Arendal (Norway); with the support of the African Union Commission (AUC) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA).

The workshop will bring together experts from the international legal and scientific community, national and regional government officials, scientists, researchers and academics to discuss issues associated with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS); the work of the ISA on marine mineral resources development and the protection and preservation of the marine environment from activities in the international seabed area (the Area).

The workshop will also discuss and propose mechanisms for improving regional cooperation and participation of African countries in the deep seabed regime. In particular, it will address special interests of landlocked African countries.

These issues will be addressed in the framework of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In particular, SDG 14, which refers to "conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development."

The workshop is specifically planned to: motivate African States to build relevant technical capacity in relation to activities in the deep seabed; increase participation in decisions that affect the Area; take part in the activities in the Area; define and enable sustainable activities on Africa's continental shelf; and contribute to the sustainable development of Africa's Blue Economy.

An official announcement of the workshop, its agenda and further details will be uploaded to our website in due course.

Poland Applies for Approval of Plan of Work for Exploration

On 25 January 2017, the Secretary-General of the Authority received an application submitted by the Government of the Republic of Poland for approval of a plan of work for exploration for polymetallic sulphides.

The application area is in the Mid-Atlantic Ridge - located between Hayes, Atlantis and Kane transform fault zones and consists of 100 exploration blocks each with an area of 10x10 kilometers.

The Republic of Poland is one of the Sponsoring States for the exploration contract for polymetallic nodules signed by the consortium Interoceanmetal Joint Organization ([IOM](#)) with the Authority in 2001, and which was extended in 2016 for a five-year period.



L-R: Secretary-General Lodge, Mr Andrzej Przybycin and Mr Michal Dajek



ISA Review Committee Completes Review of the Authority

Article 154 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea provides that, every five years from the entry into force of the Convention, the Assembly is to undertake a general and systematic review of the manner in which the international regime of the Area, established in the Convention, has led to the improvement of the operation of the regime.

In 2015, at its 21st Session, the Assembly decided to undertake the review under the oversight of a Review Committee.

The Committee, chaired by Ambassador Helmut Tuerk, was comprised of the 2015 President and the Bureau of the Assembly, the 2015 President of the Council, and the current 2016 President of the Assembly. Chairs of the regional groups participated as observers.

At its first meeting in January 2016, it appointed Seascope Consultants Ltd to assist the committee to conduct the review

by carrying out a background study according to the terms of reference agreed by the Assembly.

In January 2016 an [interim report](#) together with comments from the Secretariat, the Legal and Technical Commission and the Finance Committee, was circulated for consideration by the Assembly at its twenty-second session, in 2016.

In January 2017, the Review Committee met in Kingston to discuss the final report submitted by Seascope Consultants Ltd that had taken into account comments submitted to the Authority by 15 October 2016.

The [final report](#) was released by the Review Committee for distribution to member States in February 2017.

Photo Members of the Committee (L-R) Sai Navoti, Ambassador Carlos Alberto Michaelsen Den Hartog, Rear Admiral Md Khurshed Alam, Secretary-General Michael Lodge, Ambassador Helmut Tuerk, Ms Carmen Rives Ruiz-Tapiador, Mr Andrzej Przybycin, Philip Riley, Ms Petra Benesova, Ambassador Ariel Fernandez and Michal Dajek

Legal and Technical Commission Meets in Kingston

The Legal and Technical Commission officially opened its session on 21 February 2017 following an informal workshop and training session held on 20 February.

The informal workshop was held to familiarize new members with the working methods of the Commission, the work of the Authority, and also covered the work of the Commission over the last five years.

At its opening session, the Commission elected Mr. Christian Reichert from Germany as Chair and Ms. Michelle Walker from Jamaica as Vice-Chair.

The Commission also adopted its agenda.

The Commission discussed activities of the contractors and reviewed regulatory activities of the Authority.

The February meeting was the first session of meetings for the Commission and ended 3 March 2017.

The second session will take place the week immediately prior to the Authority's annual session on 31 July 2017.

Members of the Legal and Technical Commission are elected on the basis of personal qualifications relevant to the exploration, exploitation and processing of mineral resources, oceanography, economic and/or legal matters relating to ocean mining and associated fields.

The current 30-member Commission was elected for a term of five years beginning 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2021.

The Commission is entrusted with various functions relating to activities in the deep seabed area including: the review of applications for plans of work, supervision of exploration or mining activities, assessment of the environmental impact of such activities, and provides advice to the Council on all matters relating to exploration and exploitation of non-living marine resources.



Contractor Training Programmes

Three contractors are offering opportunities to candidates from developing States through their training programmes this quarter. They are the China Ocean Mineral Resources Research and Development Association (COMRA); the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (MOF), Republic of Korea (ROK) and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) of the Russian Federation.

◆ COMRA

COMRA is offering **three** (3) training places in the fields of geo-oceanography, biology and environment to be conducted by the Guangzhou Bureau of Marine Geological Survey. The training will take place at Sun Yat-sen University in Guangzhou city, Guangdong province for a duration of three months scheduled to commence in September 2017.

The deadline for applications is 31 March 2017. For more information visit the ISA website at <http://bit.ly/2mx7kXK>.

◆ MOF, Republic of Korea

MOF-ROK is offering **two** (2) at-sea training places

for candidates from developing States, in the fields of Geology and Geophysics. The cruise will be organized by the Korea Institute of Ocean Science and Technology (KIOST) and is planned between June and August, 2017, for about 30 days. The survey will focus on geological sampling and high-resolution topographic mapping using a deep-tow side scan sonar system.

The deadline for applications is 3 April 2017.

For more information visit the ISA website at <http://bit.ly/2m0csQT>.

◆ MNRE, Russian Federation

MNRE is offering five (5) training places, under two separate training programmes. Both programmes are divided into two parts –(a) theoretical courses at St Petersburg State University to focus on geology and mineral resources of the international seabed area; and at-sea training on board research vessels to focus on practical geological work. The deadline for applications is 3 April 2017. For more information visit <http://bit.ly/2mOMW0X>

Endowment Fund

The Authority's Endowment Fund Advisory Panel held its 14th meeting early March.

The Panel discussed the financial status of the Fund, reviewed the implementation of past fund awardees and considered new applications to the Fund.

As at 28 February 2017, a total of **115** scientists or government officials from **45** countries have been beneficiaries of financial support from the Endowment Fund.

The Fund was established in 2006 to support the participation of scientists and technical personnel from developing countries in marine scientific research programmes in the Area. Since its establishment, the Fund has supported **eight** projects. The members of the Advisory Panel are HE Ambassador Jean-Michel Despax (France); HE Ambassador Ariel Fernandez (Argentina); HE Ambassador Niu Qingbao (China); HE Ambassador Tommo Monthe (Cameroon); Dr Natsumi Kamiya (Japan); Dr Kim Juniper (USA); Dr Gordon Paterson (UK), and Dr Georgy Cherkashov (Russian Federation).



Draft Exploitation Framework

Following on from its three Regulations on Prospecting and Exploration for (a) [polymetallic nodules](#) (b) [polymetallic sulphides](#) and (c) [cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts](#) (in the Area), the Authority is in the process of developing Regulations for exploitation of mineral resources in the Area which is the ultimate regulatory phase in developing the common heritage of mankind.

The Secretariat issued its first [draft framework](#) for the regulation of exploitation activities in March 2015 together with a [discussion paper](#) on the development and implementation of a payment mechanism for consideration by member States and stakeholders.

In July 2015, a revised draft framework and action Plan on the development of the exploitation regulations was endorsed by Council together with the list of seven priority deliverables on the development of the exploitation regulations submitted by the LTC.

In July 2016, a [working draft](#) of the Regulations and Standard Contract Terms on Exploitation for Mineral Resources in the Area was issued for consideration by stakeholders. This resulted in 43 submissions from the stakeholder base.

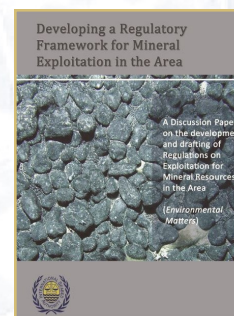
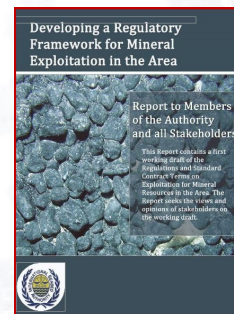
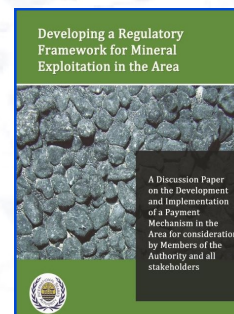
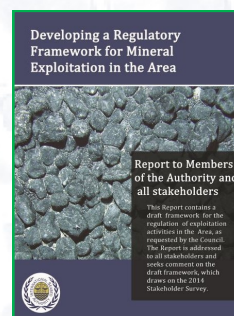
In January 2017, another [discussion paper](#) on the development and drafting of Regulations on Exploitation for Mineral Resources in the

Area (Environmental Matters) was distributed by the Secretariat to members of the LTC. At the same time, the discussion paper was also made publicly available.

The purpose of this discussion paper was to provide a background to the development of environmental principals and to highlight specific elements and challenges for further consideration. The paper also presented a tentative working draft.

In the effort to support the development of the Regulations for Exploitation, the Authority has also issued technical discussion papers and jointly coordinated workshops directly related to the development of specific areas of the regulations: [Deep Seabed Mining Payment Regime](#), San Diego, 17-18 May 2016 and the [Environmental Assessment and Management for Exploitation of Minerals in the Area](#), Surfer's Paradise, 23-26 May 2016 and [Enhancing Stakeholder Participation and Transparency in the ISA Process](#), Ocho Rios, Jamaica, 16 July 2016.

The rules, regulations and procedures are issued pursuant to the legal framework established by Part XI of the 1982 UNCLOS and its 1994 Implementing Agreement relating to activities in the Area. The complete set of these regulations will form the **Mining Code**.



Environmental Assessment and Management for Exploitation of Minerals in the Area

Report of an International Workshop convened by the Griffith University Law School in collaboration with the International Seabed Authority in Queensland, Australia, 23 - 26 May 2016.

ISA Technical Study: No. 16



Online Publications ... The Authority has released its [Technical Study No 16](#): Environmental Assessment and Management for Exploitation of Minerals in the Area.

This report provides a framework and recommendations for the development of an environmental management plan for the Area as the ISA works towards the development of a Mining Code for the exploitation of resources in the Area. The publication is available on our website and on the Amazon [site](#) for print copies.

All Authority publications are available [online](#).

ISA @ IPU, United Nations

Secretary-General Michael Lodge attended the recent 2017 annual Inter-Parliamentary Union meeting at the United Nations in February. He was part of the panel speaking on Ocean Governance.

The meeting discussed issues and roles in safeguarding the planet, looked at the state of the oceans and considered their economic benefit and stresses as well as the



effect of pollution and marine debris.

The meeting titled *A World of Blue: Preserving the oceans, safeguarding the planet, ensuring human well-being in the context of the 2030 Agenda* was attended by parliamentarians, Ambassadors, experts and UN officials.

Calendar

MARCH

- 19-24 Workshop Environmental Management Strategy for the Area
Berlin, Germany
- 27-7 3rd Session of the Preparatory Committee. Development of an 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, USA

MAY

- 2-4 Workshop Marine Mineral Resources of Africa's Continental Shelf and Adjacent International Seabed Area – Prospects for Sustainable Development of Africa's Maritime Domain
- 15-19 18th Meeting of the UN Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea
New York, USA

JUNE

- 5-9 High-Level UN Conference to Support the Implementation of SDG 14:
New York, USA
- 21-22 Contractor Meeting
Kingston, Jamaica

Working Experts



January 2017 saw several experts visiting and working with the Secretariat.

Messrs Henry Thompson and Michael Brown were tasked with examining and evaluating the Secretariat's current ICT architecture and assessing its adaptability to meet the current and emerging demands.

Ms Myra de la Garza of the UN Secretariat was invited to review



ISA procedures to ensure consistency with the UN Staff Rules and the GA recommendations on the Comprehensive Review of the Common System Compensation Package to unify salary scale and related elements.

Mr Mark Farmsworth reviewed all general staff posts and classified national posts within the Secretariat.

Top L-R: Henry Thompson and Michael Brown ; *Middle*: Myra de la Garza; *Bottom*: Mark Farmsworth

Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS)



Secretary-General Michael Lodge was a speaker at the Open Meeting held by the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf to celebrate its twentieth anniversary in New York on 10 March 2017.

Secretary-General Lodge said the work of the Commission was highly relevant and extremely important to the work of the Authority.

"Under the Convention, both the Commission and the Authority have very specific and narrowly-defined mandates and responsibilities. The Commission is tasked to consider data and information submitted by coastal States and to make recommendations in accordance with Article 76 relating to the outer limits of the continental shelf. The Authority is the organization through which States Parties shall organize and control activities in the Area."

"The relationship between the Area and the

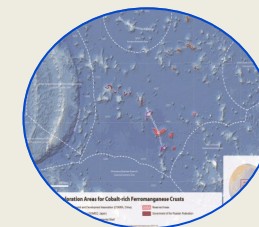
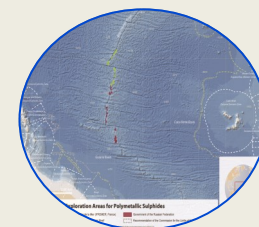
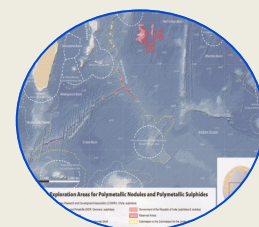
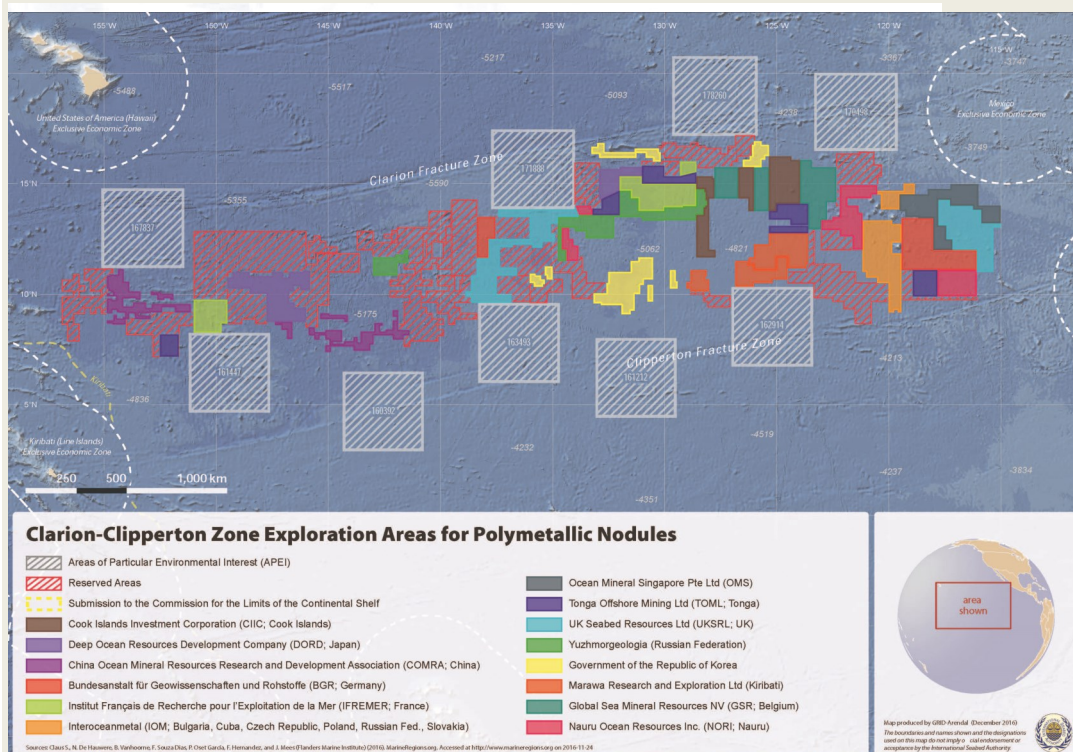
continental shelf is complex. Whereas the Convention defines the maritime zones pertaining to the national jurisdiction of coastal States by reference to objective criteria, such as baselines, or in the case of the continental shelf, by reference to criteria set out in Article 76, it defines the extent of the Area only by reference to what it is not. Thus the Area is simply defined as the seabed and subsoil thereof beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.

Its geographical boundaries are still fluid and furthermore they are residual in nature to the maritime zones under national jurisdiction."

Other speakers at the open meeting were Mr Galo Carrera, Vice-Chairperson of the Commission; Mr Mazlan Bin Madon, Member of the Commission; Mr Walter Roest, Vice-Chairperson of the Commission; Mr Lawrence F. Awosika, Chairperson of the Commission and Mr Vladimir Golitsyn, President of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS).

"The Commission and the Authority have very specific and narrowly-defined mandates and responsibilities."
[Full Statement](#)

Looking for an update of all the exploration licences granted by the Authority?
 Visit the [Exploration Areas](#) page on our website



ISA in Tokyo, Japan

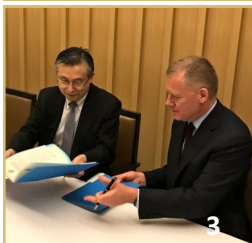
Secretary-General Michael Lodge attended two meetings recently in Tokyo, Japan. He was keynote speaker at the *EcoDeep - SIP Workshop* (14-15 March) and speaker at the *Ocean Mining Industry Promotion Round Table Meeting* (15 March).

He spoke about the activities of the International Seabed Authority; its mandate for regulating and managing deep seabed mining; the current status of exploration activities and current efforts relating to environmental regulation of activities in the Area.

"As an intergovernmental organization, established by treaty, the decision-making mechanisms within the Authority are necessarily complex and can appear somewhat intimidating for industry to deal with. The key point to note is that the system is designed to operate as far as possible by consensus."

"In putting the deep seabed under international management, one of the most important achievements of the Convention was to provide a mechanism to protect the acquired rights of several pioneer investors, including DORD of Japan."

"The next major task for the Authority is to develop a legal framework for



1. *Statement at Mining Industry Round Table;*
2. *Courtesy Call to Japan State Minister for Foreign Affairs;*
3. *Signing of extension agreement of exploration contract*

exploitation of seabed minerals."

"The industry is at a critical stage of development and it is important that we are able to produce a draft Mining Code that is commercially realistic, provides for effective environmental protection and contains transparent financial provisions."

"The Code will constitute a key step in contributing to fulfill the objective and purpose of the Convention, that is to promote the economic and social advancement of all peoples of the world."

On 16 March, Secretary-General Lodge paid a courtesy call to Japan's State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Nobuo **Kishi**. Lodge expressed appreciation of Japan's contribution to the activities of ISA, and 's cooperation as ISA plays an increasingly important role in administering the mineral resources in the deep seabed. Also on 16 March, Secretary-General Lodge signed a five-year extension agreement of the exploration contract for polymetallic nodules with Deep Ocean Resources Development Co., Ltd (DORD), President Mr Kazuaki **Shimada**.

Mr Lodge was accompanied on the Japan trip by the Deputy to the Secretary-General and Legal Counsel Mr Alfonso **Ascencio-Herrera** and Director of the Office of Environmental Management and Mineral Resources, Dr Sandor **Mulsow**.

Chile Delegation Visit the Authority



A delegation from the Chile Ministry of Foreign Affairs accompanied by Ambassador Eduardo Bonilla of the Permanent Mission of Chile to ISA paid a courtesy visit recently. The delegation met with ISA Staff, Dr

L-R: Ambassador Javier Becker, Director for North Central & Caribbean Areas; Ambassador Eduardo Bonilla, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Chile; Dr Pratima Jauhari, ISA; Mr Edgardo Riveros, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile; Ms Paula Echavarria, Third Secretary, Chile Embassy; Ambassador Juan Pablo Lira, Director of AGCI; Mr Yongsheng Cai, ISA; Mr Chapi Mwango, ISA; and Mr Felipe Cousino, Counsellor.

Pratima Jauhari of OEMMR, Mr Yongsheng Cai of OLA and Mr Chapi Mwango of the EOSG. The delegation was briefed on the structure and functions of the Authority, capacity building and training and marine resources.

Reorganization at the Secretariat



Alfonso Ascencio-



Sandor Mulsow



Ghislain Maerten



Chapi Mwango



Jean-Baptiste



Anna Elaise



Christine Griffiths,



Ena Chen,



Kioshi Mishiro,



Dawn Butters

The Secretariat of the International Seabed Authority underwent its first reorganization phase in January this year under the leadership of Secretary-General Michael Lodge.

The readjustments include: the appointment of Alfonso Ascencio-Herrera as the new Legal Counsel/Deputy to the Secretary-General and head of the Office of Legal Affairs; The renaming of the Office of Administration and Management to Office of Administration Services (OAS) headed by Director, Ghislain Maertens; the renaming of the Office of Resources and Environmental Monitoring to Office of Environmental Management and Mineral Resources (OEMMR) headed by Director, Sandor Mulsow; the creation of a Senior Management Group comprising the two Directors and the Deputy to the Secretary-General; the creation of a Contracts Management Unit, headed by Chapi Mwango to act as the central administrative point of contact between contractors, sponsoring States and the Secretariat; the amalgamation of the Information Technology Unit looked after by Jean-Baptiste Sombo to the Office of Administrative Services and the transfer of the website and new communications portfolio, looked after by Anna Elaise to the Office of Legal Affairs.

In other Secretariat news, we congratulate Christine Griffiths and Ena Chen on their promotions. Griffiths is now Office Manager in the Office of the Secretary-General and Chen, Documentation and Conference Management Officer in the Office of Legal Affairs.

We welcome Kioshi Mishiro of Japan who was appointed GIS Officer in January.

We bid farewell Dawn Butters Cole, our Human Resources Officer who took early retirement in February after nine years with the Secretariat. Cole was a valued team member and will be sorely missed. She plans to travel around Australia with her husband Keith and we wish them all the best in their future.

Last, but not least, the Secretariat is in the process of interviewing and appointing persons to fill the Senior Legal Officer, Training Coordinator, Human Resources Officer, Data Manager and Administrative Assistant positions. We will feature the new staff members in our June issue. §

The digital newsletter is also available on our [website](#).

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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