



**Academic Symposium of Engineering, Science, and Technology of the Chinese Academy of  
Engineering  
Development of Science and Technology Frontiers of the Continental Shelf and Area Regimes**

Hanzhou, China

19 October 2024

OPENING REMARKS

Mr. Michael W. Lodge,  
Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority

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Distinguished participants, Ladies and gentlemen,

I thank the Second Institute of Oceanography for inviting me to make a statement at the opening of the Academic Symposium of the Chinese Academy of Engineering under the theme of development of Science and Technology Frontiers of the Continental Shelf and Area Regimes.

Advances in science and technology provide people and the planet with unprecedented capabilities and opportunities for a better and prosperous future. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals will never be achieved without the backbone support of science and technology. The Summit of the Future held in September at the UN further elaborated the significance of science and technology in that way.

From the perspective of the International Seabed Authority, it is developments in science and technology that will make it possible to sustainably develop deep sea resources and effectively protect the marine environment. The importance of science and technology and the role they play as enablers of transformative actions cannot be overemphasized in global ocean governance.

In view of the importance of science and technology in carrying out its functions, the Assembly of the Authority adopted in 2020 an Action Plan for Marine Scientific Research to support the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. The Action Plan identifies six strategic research priorities reflecting the entire spectrum of priorities identified by the global community to implement a sound and responsible management of the Area and its resources for the benefit of all.

The Plan has enabled the Authority to successfully contribute to deliver against many agreed international objectives and principles, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). To that end, specific efforts have been invested over the years in strengthening the science-policy interface and ensure that an evidence-based approach in its decision-making is followed.

It is particularly remarkable to note that China has taken the lead in deep sea science and technology development and innovation, also contributing significantly to advance the general knowledge and understanding of the deep-sea environments and as well as the conditions for the sustainable development of the resources of the Area.

I have been sincerely impressed during my last visit in China in June 2024, by the latest progress made by the Chinese scientific community when it comes to deep-sea research and technology. I am confident that the cooperation established with ISA will last many more years and that many more achievements will be celebrated.

I hope the work of the ISA particularly its MSR Action Plan could bring to your attention during your discussion and future work. I wish the Academic Symposium a great success.

Thank you.