



## Legal and Technical Commission

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### Thirty-first session

Legal and Technical Commission, part I  
Kingston, 23 February–6 March 2026  
Agenda item 7

### Status of the implementation of training programmes under plans of work for exploration and the allocation of training opportunities

## Selection of candidates for training programmes under plans of work for exploration

### Recommendations by the Legal and Technical Commission

1. During the period following the second part of the thirtieth session, held in July 2025, a total of 33 training opportunities were offered by seven contractors pursuant to their contracts for exploration with the International Seabed Authority (see annex I). These placements comprised:

(a) Three internship placements offered by the Institut français de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer (Ifremer) pursuant to its contract for polymetallic nodules;

(b) Fifteen Master's fellowship training placements offered by Ocean Mineral Singapore Pte. Ltd. pursuant to its contract for polymetallic nodules;

(c) Three at-sea on-board training placements offered by the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea pursuant to its contract for polymetallic sulphides;

(d) Six theoretical and practical on-board training placements offered by the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea pursuant to its contract for polymetallic nodules;

(e) Two training placements for the 2026 International Foundation for the Law of the Sea summer academy offered by Marawa Research and Exploration Ltd. pursuant to its contract for polymetallic nodules;

(f) One Master's fellowship training placement offered by Tonga Offshore Mining Ltd. pursuant to its contract for polymetallic nodules;

(g) One Master's fellowship training placement offered by Nauru Ocean Resources Inc. pursuant to its contract for polymetallic nodules;



(h) Two professional training placements (APEC dredging technologies seminar and DEME demonstration and field activity) offered by Global Sea Mineral Resources NV pursuant to its contract for polymetallic nodules.

2. To accommodate scheduling demands for the training programmes, the Legal and Technical Commission, prior to the commencement of the first part of the thirty-first session and in accordance with the recommendations of the training subgroup, selected 29 candidates for the training programmes offered by Ifremer, Ocean Mineral Singapore Pte. Ltd., the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea and Marawa Research and Exploration Ltd. (see annexes I and II).

3. During the first part of the thirty-first session, the selection of candidates was conducted by the Commission for the remaining four training opportunities offered by Tonga Offshore Mining Ltd., Nauru Ocean Resources Inc. and Global Sea Mineral Resources NV (see annexes I and III).

4. Candidates were selected on the basis of the criteria provided by contractors. Due consideration was given to gender balance and equitable geographical distribution, with particular attention given to the interests and needs of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as requested by the Council in a decision adopted at the twentieth session (see [ISBA/20/C/31](#), para. 6) and reiterated in the decision of the Assembly relating to the implementation of a programmatic approach to capacity development ([ISBA/26/A/18](#)), adopted at the twenty-sixth session, and formalized through the adoption in 2022 of the capacity development strategy (see [ISBA/27/A/11](#)).

5. A breakdown of the selection figures shows that since July 2025, regionally, of the 33 selected first-ranked candidates, 14 (42%) were from the Group of African States, 14 (42%) from the Group of Asia-Pacific States, 1 (3%) from the Group of Eastern European States and 4 (12%) from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States. A further breakdown shows that seven candidates (21%) were from countries in special situations, namely five (15%) from least developed countries, one (3%) from a small island developing State and one (3%) from a least developed small island developing State (see annexes II and III).

6. Contractors continue to contribute positively to the implementation of the Women in Deep-Sea Research project,<sup>1</sup> with only one remaining to join the pledge. For the current reporting period, all but one of the contractors have pledged 50% of their training opportunities to suitably qualified women, where possible (see annex I). Among the selected first-ranked candidates, 19 (57%) were women (see annexes II and III).

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<sup>1</sup> More information is available at [www.isa.org.jm/capacity-development-training-and-technical-assistance/widsr-project](http://www.isa.org.jm/capacity-development-training-and-technical-assistance/widsr-project).

## Annex I

## Training proposals offered by contractors for which the selection process was completed

<i>Date of receipt</i>	<i>Contractor</i>	<i>Exploration contract</i>	<i>Women in Deep-Sea Research pledge</i>	<i>Type of training</i>	<i>Places</i>	<i>Scheduled training time</i>	<i>Duration of training</i>	<i>Applications received</i>
12 May 2025	Institut français de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer	Polymetallic nodules	Yes	Internship (environmental studies)	1	Between May and June 2026	2 months	38
25 June 2025	Ocean Mineral Singapore Pte. Ltd.	Polymetallic nodules	No	Master's fellowship	15	March 2026	1 year	82
28 July 2025	Institut français de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer	Polymetallic nodules	Yes	Internship (workshop, MeioScool 2026)	2	April 2026	5 days	30
15 October 2025	Marawa Research and Exploration Ltd.	Polymetallic nodules	Yes	International Foundation for the Law of the Sea summer academy	2	Summer 2026	4 weeks	52
23 October 2025	Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea	Polymetallic sulphides	Yes	At-sea on-board training	3	Between April and May 2026	28 days	51
9 November 2025	Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea	Polymetallic nodules	Yes	Theoretical and practical on-board training	6	23 February–13 March 2026	3 weeks	73
24 November 2025	Tonga Offshore Mining Ltd.	Polymetallic nodules	Yes	Master's fellowship	1	July 2026	2 years	13
24 November 2025	Nauru Ocean Resources Inc.	Polymetallic nodules	Yes	Master's fellowship	1	July 2026	2 years	16
9 December 2025	Global Sea Mineral Resources NV	Polymetallic nodules	Yes	Professional training (APEC dredging technologies seminar and DEME demonstration and field activity)	2	June 2026	3 weeks	33

Note: Details of current and past training proposals can be found at <https://isa.org/jm/training/contractor-training>.

## Annex II

### Results of the selection of candidates conducted before the first part of the thirty-first session

#### Institut français de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer (polymetallic nodules)

##### Internship (environmental studies)

<i>Name</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Country of origin</i>	<i>Country classification</i>
<i>First-ranked candidate</i>			
1. Mahmuda A. Popy	Female	Bangladesh	LDC
<i>Alternates</i>			
1. Ariel E. Dalrymple	Female	Trinidad and Tobago	SIDS
2. Venesa Utami	Female	Indonesia	
3. Jedidiah Koomson	Male	Ghana	

#### Ocean Mineral Singapore Pte. Ltd. (polymetallic nodules)

##### Master's fellowship

<i>Name</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Country of origin</i>	<i>Country classification</i>
<i>First-ranked candidates</i>			
1. Audrey Korsah Asubonteng	Female	Ghana	
2. Darrell Ariel Saiman	Male	Indonesia	
3. Pandu Putri Pamungkas	Female	Indonesia	
4. Karla E. Gallegos	Female	Ecuador	
5. Faith Aoko Ochieng	Female	Kenya	
6. Esther Morkor Okoe-Mensah	Female	Ghana	
7. Vishal V. Parasappagol	Male	India	
8. Kuo Tong Soon	Male	Malaysia	
9. Walter Okinyi Ogutu	Male	Kenya	
10. Chidinma Mirian Okoro	Female	Nigeria	
11. M. Ashif Imam Khan	Male	Bangladesh	LDC
12. Michael Opoku	Male	Ghana	
13. Javed Ali Kalhoro	Male	Pakistan	
14. Oluwasemilore D. Olaitan	Male	Nigeria	
15. Teyoung Mafutamao	Male	Solomon Islands	LDC/SIDS

<i>Name</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Country of origin</i>	<i>Country classification</i>
<i>Alternates</i>			
1. Linda Ogechi Ihekwaaba	Female	Nigeria	
2. Paul Ochefijie Oyaje	Male	Nigeria	
3. Faustina Adjeibea Asante	Female	Ghana	
4. Ibrahim Mubarak Imam	Male	Nigeria	

### **Institut français de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer (polymetallic nodules)**

#### **Internship (workshop, MeioScool 2026)**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Country of origin</i>	<i>Country classification</i>
<i>First-ranked candidates</i>			
1. Eugenia C. Thomas	Female	Trinidad and Tobago	SIDS
2. Sazi S. F. N. Nzama	Male	South Africa	
<i>Alternates</i>			
1. Sanjeev Persad	Male	Trinidad and Tobago	SIDS
2. Jini Jacob	Female	India	
3. Yushma O. Bhujun-Seenundun	Female	Mauritius	SIDS
4. Merna Khaled Abdelaziz Metwally	Female	Egypt	

### **Marawa Research and Exploration Ltd (polymetallic nodules)**

#### **International Foundation for the Law of the Sea summer academy**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Country of origin</i>	<i>Country classification</i>
<i>First-ranked candidates</i>			
1. Polina Khoreva	Female	Serbia	
2. Dian Puspitasari	Female	Indonesia	
<i>Alternates</i>			
1. Vaishnavi Narayeni Peruvazhuthi	Female	India	
2. Wajahat Sharif	Male	Pakistan	
3. Lydia S. Kadiri	Female	Nigeria	
4. Jialu Cui	Female	China	

## Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea (polymetallic sulphides)

### At-sea on-board training

<i>Name</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Country of origin</i>	<i>Country classification</i>
<i>First-ranked candidates</i>			
1. Sophia Therese L. Pamati-an	Female	Philippines	
2. Tahmina Anwar Tonny	Female	Bangladesh	LDC
3. Charles Atta Obikyenbi	Male	Ghana	
<i>Alternates</i>			
1. Leonardo Junius C. Santos	Male	Brazil	
2. Sharon Jerop Kemboi	Female	Kenya	
3. Swachsa Rahman	Male	Bangladesh	LDC

## Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea (polymetallic nodules)

### Theoretical and practical on-board training

<i>Name</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Country of origin</i>	<i>Country classification</i>
<i>First-ranked candidates</i>			
1. Rizkyah Zahra Rani	Female	Indonesia	
2. Rashmikka Ravikumar	Female	Malaysia	
3. Avery Inyangala	Female	Kenya	
4. João Hurst Machado Neto	Male	Brazil	
5. Andrea C. Zambrano	Female	Ecuador	
6. Farhana Sharif Shraboni	Female	Bangladesh	LDC
<i>Alternates</i>			
1. Touhidul Hoque Shuvo	Male	Bangladesh	LDC
2. Glory K. John	Male	Nigeria	
3. M. Mazaharul Islam	Male	Bangladesh	LDC
4. Osvaldo Zacarias	Male	Mozambique	LDC

*Abbreviations:* LDC, least developed country; SIDS, small island developing State.

## Annex III

### Results of the selection of candidates conducted during the first part of the thirty-first session

#### Tonga Offshore Mining Ltd. (polymetallic nodules)

##### Master's fellowship

<i>Name</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Country of origin</i>	<i>Country classification</i>
<i>First-ranked candidate</i>			
1. Josephine Abosede Oyerinde	Female	Nigeria	
<i>Alternates</i>			
1. Kelly Kiprop	Male	Kenya	
2. Kasali Oladepo Lawal	Male	Nigeria	

#### Nauru Ocean Resources Inc. (polymetallic nodules)

##### Master's fellowship

<i>Name</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Country of origin</i>	<i>Country classification</i>
<i>First-ranked candidate</i>			
1. Shuceb Moalim Farah Barre	Male	Somalia	LDC
<i>Alternates</i>			
1. Adiba Mosharraf	Female	Bangladesh	LDC
2. Swachsa Rahman	Male	Bangladesh	LDC

#### Global Sea Mineral Resources NV (polymetallic nodules)

##### Professional training (APEC dredging technologies seminar and DEME demonstration and field activity)

<i>Name</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Country of origin</i>	<i>Country classification</i>
<i>First-ranked candidates</i>			
1. Rime Djellabi	Female	Algeria	
2. Michael Damilola Afolarin	Male	Nigeria	
<i>Alternates</i>			
1. Thales C. Felipe	Male	Brazil	
2. Joshua Trinidad Herras	Male	Philippines	

*Abbreviations:* LDC, least developed country.