



Legal and Technical Commission

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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 first part of the thirty-first session, held in March 2026, a total of 39 training opportunities were offered by 11 contractors pursuant to their contracts for exploration with the International Seabed Authority (see annex I). These placements comprised:

- (a) One internship placement offered by the Institut français de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer (Ifremer) pursuant to its contract for polymetallic sulphides;
- (b) Two at-sea on-board training placements offered by Tonga Offshore Mining Ltd. pursuant to its contract for polymetallic nodules;
- (c) One internship placement offered by Global Sea Mineral Resources NV pursuant to its contract for polymetallic nodules;
- (d) Five fellowship training placements offered by Beijing Pioneer Hi-Tech Development Corporation Ltd. pursuant to its contract for polymetallic nodules;
- (e) Two engineering training placements offered by China Ocean Mineral Resources Research and Development Association pursuant to its contract for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts;
- (f) Eight practical on-board training placements offered by the Government of Poland pursuant to its contract for polymetallic sulphides;
- (g) Six theoretical training placements offered by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation pursuant to its contract for polymetallic sulphides;
- (h) Four theoretical training placements offered by JSC Yuzhmorgeologiya pursuant to its contract for polymetallic nodules;



(i) Two on-land training placements offered by Deep Ocean Resources Development Co. Ltd. pursuant to its contract for polymetallic nodules;

(j) Four engineering training placements offered by China Minmetals Corporation pursuant to its contract for polymetallic nodules;

(k) Four at-sea on-board training placements offered by the Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources of Germany pursuant to its contract for polymetallic sulphides.

2. To accommodate scheduling demands for the training programmes, the Legal and Technical Commission, prior to the commencement of the second 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, Tonga Offshore Mining Ltd., Global Sea Mineral Resources NV, Beijing Pioneer Hi-Tech Development Corporation Ltd., China Ocean Mineral Resources Research and Development Association, the Government of Poland, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation and JSC Yuzhmorgeologiya (see annexes I and II).

3. During the second part of the thirty-first session, the selection of candidates was conducted by the Commission for the remaining six training opportunities offered by Deep Ocean Resources Development Co. Ltd. and China Minmetals Corporation (see annexes I and III). The selection of candidates for the training programme offered by the Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources of Germany will be conducted in the upcoming intersessional period.

4. Additionally, on 7 July 2026, a request was received from Ocean Mineral Singapore Pte. Ltd. to increase the number of reserve candidates to accommodate withdrawals of candidates previously selected by the Commission (see [ISBA/31/LTC/5](#)). There is one first-ranked placement vacant and, in the interest of time, Ocean Mineral Singapore Pte. Ltd. is seeking the support of the Commission to select more candidates to avoid having to readvertise the programme given that the aim is to implement the opportunity in September 2026. Given the time frame, the Commission recommended, from the initial pool of candidates, the subsequent 10 candidates with the highest ranking as the additional reserves (see annex III).

5. 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](#)).

6. A breakdown of the selection figures shows that since March 2026, regionally, of the 35 selected first-ranked candidates, 14 (40%) were from the Group of African States, 15 (43%) from the Group of Asia-Pacific States and six (17%) from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States. A further breakdown shows that 43% were from countries in special situations, namely 12 (34%) from least developed countries, 3 (9%) from small island developing States and 3 (9%) from least developed small island developing States (see annexes II and III).

7. Contractors continue to contribute positively to the implementation of the Women in Deep-Sea Research project.¹ For the current reporting period, all the contractors that offered training programmes have pledged 50% of their training opportunities to suitably qualified women, where possible (see annex I). Among the selected first-ranked candidates, 18 (51%) were women (see annexes II and III).

¹ More information is available at 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>
20 November 2025	Institut français de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer	Polymetallic sulphides	Yes	Internship (environmental studies)	1	Between October and December 2026	2 months	47
25 November 2025	Tonga Offshore Mining Ltd.	Polymetallic nodules	Yes	At-sea on-board training	2	Between October and December 2026	6 weeks	34
9 December 2025	Global Sea Mineral Resources NV	Polymetallic nodules	Yes	Internship (deep-sea technology)	1	November–January 2027	3 months	18
28 January 2026	Beijing Pioneer Hi-Tech Development Corporation Ltd.	Polymetallic nodules	Yes	Fellowship training programme	5	Between July and December 2026	3 months	43
12 February 2026	China Ocean Mineral Resources Research and Development Association	Cobalt-rich ferromanganese crust	Yes	Engineering training	2	August–September 2026	1 month	19
26 April 2026	Government of Poland	Polymetallic sulphides	Yes	Practical on-board training	8	19–28 July 2026	10 days	20
11 March 2026	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation	Polymetallic sulphides	Yes	Theoretical training	6	August–September 2026	2 weeks	45
24 April 2026	JSC Yuzhmoregeologiya	Polymetallic nodules	Yes	Theoretical training	4	August–September 2026	2 weeks	33
17 April 2026	Deep Ocean Resources Development Co. Ltd.	Polymetallic nodules	Yes	On-land training	2	4 December 2026–3 January 2027	1 month	45
10 May 2026	China Minmetals Corporation	Polymetallic nodules	Yes	Engineering training	4	Between August and December 2026	1 month	35

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 second part of the thirty-first session

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

Internship (environmental studies)

<i>Name</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Country of origin</i>	<i>Country classification</i>
<i>First-ranked candidate</i>			
1. David Onyeka Asiwa	Male	Nigeria	
<i>Alternates</i>			
1. Khadjetou Taleb	Female	Mauritania	LDC
2. Nomena Tahiana Andriantiana	Female	Madagascar	LDC
3. Enrique Ac	Male	Mexico	

Tonga Offshore Mining Ltd. (polymetallic nodules)

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. Jane Ng'endo Kamau	Female	Kenya	
2. M. Mizanur Rahman	Male	Bangladesh	LDC
<i>Alternates</i>			
1. Arvien Terence D. Cudilla	Male	Philippines	
2. Cesar Anthony Aben	Male	Philippines	
3. Brian Emurenya E. Emojong	Male	Kenya	

Global Sea Mineral Resources NV (polymetallic nodules)

Internship (deep-sea technology)

<i>Name</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Country of origin</i>	<i>Country classification</i>
<i>First-ranked candidates</i>			
1. Pasqua Raitra Ramiriarisoa	Female	Madagascar	LDC
<i>Alternates</i>			
1. Oussama Amine Benrouibi	Male	Algeria	
2. Abdelmalek Benzohra	Male	Algeria	

Beijing Pioneer Hi-Tech Development Corporation Ltd. (polymetallic nodules)

Fellowship training

<i>Name</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Country of origin</i>	<i>Country classification</i>
<i>First-ranked candidate</i>			
1. Aidah Abdul Wahid	Female	Pakistan	
2. Swachsa Rahman	Male	Bangladesh	LDC
3. Arthur Cumplido	Male	Brazil	
4. Jabari E. Aberdeen-McKell	Male	Trinidad and Tobago	SIDS
5. Muhammad Dani	Male	Indonesia	
<i>Alternates</i>			
1. Brian Emurenya E. Emojong	Male	Kenya	
2. Kulwa Mtaki Ladislaus	Female	United Republic of Tanzania	LDC
3. Hamida Ngala Mbwana	Female	United Republic of Tanzania	LDC
4. Mohammad Saifur Rahman	Male	Bangladesh	LDC

China Ocean Mineral Resources Research and Development Association (cobalt-rich ferromanganese crust)

Engineering training

<i>Name</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Country of origin</i>	<i>Country classification</i>
<i>First-ranked candidates</i>			
1. Faith Itori Onyamasi	Female	Kenya	
2. Bertrand Anagonou	Male	Benin	LDC
<i>Alternates</i>			
1. M. Nazmul Hasan	Male	Bangladesh	LDC
2. Ebikonboere Mary Tekeme	Female	Nigeria	

Government of Poland (polymetallic sulphides)

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. Caroline Akinyi Odhiambo	Female	Kenya	
2. Fabíola B. Araújo de Lima	Female	Brazil	
3. Faustina Adjeibea Asante	Female	Ghana	
4. Touhidul Hoque Shuvo	Male	Bangladesh	LDC
5. Gonzalo Andrés Albornoz Cordero	Male	Chile	
6. Michel M. Meira	Male	Brazil	
7. Hood Yassin Mallah	Male	United Republic of Tanzania	LDC
8. Francielle Nelsiane Colman de Moraes	Female	Brazil	
<i>Alternates</i>			
1. Asmaa Ali Saleh Ferikh	Female	Egypt	
2. Bertrand Anagonou	Male	Benin	LDC
3. Walter Okinyi Ogutu	Male	Kenya	

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Government of the Russian Federation (polymetallic sulphides)

Theoretical training

<i>Name</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Country of origin</i>	<i>Country classification</i>
<i>First-ranked candidate</i>			
1. Karla May F. Sayen	Female	Philippines	
2. Rajia Sultana	Female	Bangladesh	LDC
3. Twinkle C. Kang	Female	Philippines	
4. Tomasi Mara	Male	Fiji	SIDS
5. Kazi Munsura Akther	Female	Bangladesh	LDC
6. Erzidio Domingos Uchavo	Male	Mozambique	LDC
<i>Alternates</i>			
1. Tushar Kanti Roy	Male	Bangladesh	LDC
2. Faidat Olawunmi Olukoya	Female	Nigeria	
3. Emmanuel Ccelestine Nwaejije	Male	Nigeria	

JSC Yuzhmorgeologiya (polymetallic nodules)

Theoretical training

<i>Name</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Country of origin</i>	<i>Country classification</i>
<i>First-ranked candidate</i>			
1. Brian Emurenya E Emojong	Male	Kenya	
2. Tanzim Tamanna Afroz	Female	Bangladesh	LDC
3. Cesar Anthony Aben	Male	Philippines	
4. Sabina Yeasmin Yeasmin	Female	Bangladesh	LDC
<i>Alternates</i>			
1. Rabeya Khatun	Female	Bangladesh	LDC
2. Mounjouhou Mahomed Aziz	Male	Cameroon	
3. Fermin Palma	Male	Argentina	

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

Annex III

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

Deep Ocean Resources Development Co. Ltd. (polymetallic nodules)

On-land training

<i>Name</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Country of origin</i>	<i>Country classification</i>
<i>First-ranked candidates</i>			
1. Linda A. Ansu-Kyeremeh	Female	Ghana	
2. Fatuma Rajab Mwanganga	Female	Kenya	
<i>Alternates</i>			
1. Eduardo C. Pinheiro	Male	Brazil	
2. Rajia Sultana	Female	Bangladesh	LDC

China Minmetals Corporation (polymetallic nodules)

Engineering training

<i>Name</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Country of origin</i>	<i>Country classification</i>
<i>First-ranked candidates</i>			
1. Marysia Kaburoua	Female	Kiribati	LDC/SIDS
2. M. Harun Or Rashid	Male	Bangladesh	LDC
3. Abderrahmane Mobarek	Male	Algeria	LDC
4. Thomas N. Elago	Male	Namibia	
<i>Alternates</i>			
1. Hamna Saleem	Female	Pakistan	
2. Merit Harriet Oguma	Female	Nigeria	

Ocean Mineral Singapore Pte. Ltd. (polymetallic nodules)

Master's fellowship (reserve candidates)

<i>Name</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Country of origin</i>	<i>Country classification</i>
<i>Alternates</i>			
1. Abioye Oluwayomi Banjoko	Male	Nigeria	
2. Nadim Mahmud	Male	Bangladesh	LDC
3. Ousman Jallow	Male	Gambia	LDC
4. Wajih Ur Rehman	Male	Pakistan	
5. Emanuel Laulence Matinya	Male	United Republic of Tanzania	LDC
6. Daniel A. Adeniji	Male	Nigeria	
7. Sabina Yeasmin Yeasmin	Female	Bangladesh	LDC
8. Caesar Jimoh	Male	Nigeria	
9. Mary Dolapo Obasa	Female	Nigeria	
10. Elisha I. Olagunju	Male	Nigeria	

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