



Legal and Technical Commission

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Agenda item 5

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

Recommendation by the Legal and Technical Commission

I. Introduction

1. Pursuant to their contracts for exploration with the International Seabed Authority, the China Ocean Mineral Resources Research and Development Association (COMRA), the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea (MOF-ROK), the Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources of the Germany (BGR) and Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation (JOGMEC) submitted training proposals to the secretariat.
2. At a meeting held on 21 February 2017, the Legal and Technical Commission of the Authority appointed a subgroup to evaluate and recommend candidates for training opportunities. It was agreed that the subgroup would work with the secretariat between sessions to identify appropriate candidates for training opportunities (see [ISBA/20/LTC/13](#), paras. 11-13). In making its selection of candidates, the subgroup considered the relevant regulations and the principles, policies and procedures applicable to the training programmes, in particular the recommendations for the guidance of contractors and sponsoring States relating to training programmes under plans of work for exploration ([ISBA/19/LTC/14](#)).
3. Owing to the scheduling demands of COMRA, MOF-ROK and BGR, candidates were required to be selected before the present session of the Commission. To meet the contractors' requests, the subgroup performed its evaluations outside the session of the Commission by means of email communications. The selection for the JOGMEC training programme, however, has been done following the normal selection process during the present session.
4. The selection of candidates was based on the qualification criteria provided by each contractor for their respective programmes, in particular language proficiency, educational background, work experience, potential career development, reasons for



seeking training, expected benefit to the candidates' countries and other merits embodied in the application material. In addition to those considerations, due regard was paid to gender balance and equitable geographical distribution, in particular the interests and needs of the landlocked and geographically disadvantaged developing States, as requested by the Council in a decision adopted at the twentieth session (see [ISBA/20/C/31](#), para. 6).

II. Intersessional selection of candidates

5. On 16 January 2017, COMRA submitted a training proposal pursuant to the contract for exploration for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts signed with the Authority on 29 April 2014. In its proposal, it has offered a three-month scholarship to three candidates from developing States to participate in a comprehensive training by the Guangzhou Bureau of Marine Geological Survey, a key member of COMRA. The training is scheduled to commence in September 2017 at Sun Yat-sen University in Guangzhou City and will focus on geological oceanography, biology and the environment.

6. On 10 February, MOF-ROK submitted a training proposal pursuant to the contract for exploration for polymetallic sulphides signed with the Authority on 24 June 2014. In its proposal, it has offered two 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 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.

7. On 25 April, BGR submitted a training proposal pursuant to the contract for exploration for polymetallic sulphides signed with the Authority on 6 May 2015. In its proposal, it has offered four at-sea training places for candidates from developing States. The training will be for a duration of approximately three months and is planned between 21 August and 13 October 2017. The programme is aimed at developing planning skills for investigation, data analysis and interpretation through on-board and laboratory works and scientific techniques for exploration for polymetallic sulphides.

8. The training opportunities were sent to the members of the Authority for the purpose of nominating candidates. They were also advertised on the website of the Authority, by means of flyers at United Nations meetings and other events, and through social media. The following applications were received:

(a) Scholarships offered by COMRA: 41 applications (25 from the African Group, 7 from the Asia-Pacific Group, 1 from the Eastern European Group, 5 from the Latin American and Caribbean Group, 2 from the Western European and other States Group and 1 from an observer State; 13 women and 28 men);

(b) At-sea training programme offered by MOF-ROK: 28 applications (18 from the African Group, 5 from the Asia-Pacific Group, 1 from the Latin American and Caribbean Group, 2 from the Western European and other States Group, 1 from an observer State and 1 incomplete; 6 women and 22 men);

(c) At-sea training programme offered by BGR: 18 applications (10 from the African Group and 8 from the Asia-Pacific Group; 5 women and 13 men).

9. On the basis of the selection criteria and recommendations approved by the Commission, and taking into account consultations between the contractor and the

secretariat, the subgroup recommends the following list of first-ranked candidates and alternates to the Commission:

For the COMRA scholarship for a three-month comprehensive training

<i>Name</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Country of origin</i>
<i>First-ranked candidates</i>		
1. Md. Bazlar Rashid	Male	Bangladesh
2. Mariana Benites	Female	Brazil
3. Gor Gevorgyan	Male	Armenia
<i>Alternates</i>		
1. Solomon Felix Dan	Male	Nigeria
2. Rasaq Haruna	Male	Nigeria
3. Sihem Akli	Female	Algeria

For the MOF-ROK at-sea training

<i>Name</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Country of origin</i>
<i>First-ranked candidates</i>		
1. Leslee Salzman	Female	South Africa
2. Arthur Wilfred Balla Essomba	Male	Cameroun
<i>Alternates</i>		
1. Byran M. Cababan	Male	Philippines

For the BGR at-sea training

<i>Name</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Country of origin</i>
<i>First-ranked candidates</i>		
1. Eric Arthur-Mensah	Male	Ghana
2. Sumran Praphat	Male	Thailand
3. Alyaa A.M. Zidan	Female	Egypt
4. Thomas Whiddon	Male	Cook Islands
<i>Alternates</i>		
1. Essam K. El-Shorbagi	Male	Egypt
2. Solomon Felix Dan	Male	Nigeria

III. Selection of candidates during the present session

10. During its meetings held from 31 July to 9 August 2017, the Commission met to advise the Secretary-General on the selection of candidates for the training programme proposed by JOGMEC.

11. On 27 March 2017, the Secretary-General received a training proposal from JOGMEC, which was submitted pursuant to the contract for exploration for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts signed with the Authority on 27 January 2014. In its proposal, JOGMEC has offered to make available four places on board a research vessel for candidates from developing States for a duration of approximately 40 days, between May and June 2018. The programme comprises three phases: (a) pre-cruise training; (b) at-sea training; and (c) post-cruise training. It is aimed at developing the investigative planning skills, on-board work experience and data analysis and interpretation skills of the candidates.

12. The training programme was duly advertised in April and a total of 39 applications from 19 countries were received by the deadline of 26 May (11 from the African Group, 17 from the Asia-Pacific Group, 10 from the Latin American and Caribbean Group and 1 from the Western European and other States Group; 10 women and 29 men).

13. The subgroup evaluated the applications over the course of three days. From 31 July to 1 August, each subgroup member had the opportunity to review the candidates' applications on the basis of the qualification criteria provided by JOGMEC, as well as the selection criteria and recommendations approved by the Commission. On 2 August, the subgroup met to compare reviews and finalize the selection process, gradually reducing the number of applications from 39 to 7. The subgroup then ranked the candidates (4 preferred candidates and 3 alternates), ensuring equitable geographic distribution and gender balance.

14. The final recommendation is as follows:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Country of origin</i>
<i>First-ranked candidates</i>		
1. Franco Eduardo Pugliese	Male	Argentina
2. Soe Moe Aung	Male	Myanmar
3. Judith Owusu	Female	Ghana
4. Hank Hedge	Male	Jamaica
<i>Alternates</i>		
1. Yuslieni Cala Cadero	Female	Cuba
2. Karina Melias Astriandhita	Female	Indonesia
3. Hasina Ramaroson	Male	Madagascar

15. After consideration of the work carried out by the subgroup, the Commission accepted its recommended list of candidates for the JOGMEC training programme. Should any of the first-ranked candidates not accept the training or be unable to take part in it at short notice, the alternates should be reached in the order ranked for the vacant training place.

IV. Other recommendations

16. During the selection of candidates for the training programmes, the subgroup made the following observations and recommendations:

(a) It noted that some training opportunities attracted a wider geographic distribution of candidates than others. To improve upon this situation, the subgroup recommends a more targeted advertising campaign to ensure that information about training opportunities reaches a wider pool of better-qualified applicants from more countries;

(b) It also noted that several candidates who had previously received training had reapplied for these training opportunities. In order to ensure that as wide a cross section of candidates from developing States as possible benefit from these opportunities, the subgroup recommends that such applicants not be considered for another training opportunity for a period of five years. At the end of the five-year period, their applications will be duly considered subject to the following caveats: provided it is for a type of training different to the one already received, and depending on the availability of other suitably qualified candidates who have not participated in previous programmes.

17. The Commission accepted the recommendations made by the subgroup.
