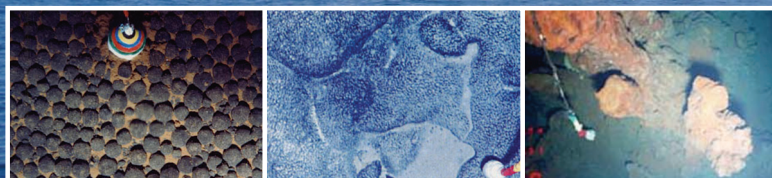


The Prospect



Issue 7. March 2015

NEWS FROM THE PACIFIC DEEP SEA MINERALS PROJECT

National Seabed Minerals Management Board launched in the Marshall Islands in October

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The Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) formed an Interim National Seabed Minerals Management Board (INSMB) on 2 October 2014. The board members, consisting of a small team of government officers and non-governmental representatives, are tasked by Cabinet to develop national policy and law for the appropriate governance of the nation's deep sea resources.

Past studies in Marshall Islands' waters reveal the presence of 'cobalt-rich crusts': rocky deposits that gradually built up over millions of years on the flanks of subsea mountains. These crusts are thought to contain in-demand metals, such as cobalt, nickel,

copper and platinum, and other rare earth elements.

The INSMB enables meaningful participatory mechanisms whereby citizens, civil society, private sector and the media can have a role in the development and monitoring of deep sea mining policies. This will be critical in order to show respect for the views of stakeholders on such a complex subject, such as deep sea mining.

Legal Advisors Ms Hannah Lily and Ms Marie Bourrel attended the inaugural meeting. The DSM Project worked with the Marshall Islands Attorney General's office to prepare the draft policy and law that will form the basis of the board's discussions.



Inaugural meeting of the Interim National Seabed Minerals Management Board in Majuro, on 2 October 2014, comprising: Lowell Alik (Environmental Protection Agency), Jonathan Kawakami (Attorney General's Office), Bruce Bilimon (Assistant Secretary of Finance, Revenue and Tax), Hannah Lily (DSM Project – Legal Advisor – SPC), Marie Bourrel (DSM Project – Legal Advisor – SPC), Rebecca Lorennij (Ministry of Resources and Development, INSMB Chairperson), and Henry Sanday (Office of Commerce and Investment).

Initiated in 2011, the SPC-EU Deep Sea Minerals Project is helping Pacific Island countries to improve the governance and management of their deep-sea minerals resources coordinated way within the Pacific.

Vanuatu Government seeks public view on draft national policy on Deep Sea Mining

In October 2014, the Republic of Vanuatu commenced national consultation on their draft Deep Sea Minerals Policy. The first meeting, held in Port Vila, is the first in a series of consultations to be held in all 6 provinces.

Past studies in Vanuatu's waters revealed the presence of sea floor massive sulphide deposits within its exclusive economic zone, which could contain significant quantities of copper, gold, zinc, silver and other commercially viable minerals. The presence of such minerals could present a potential economic opportunity for Vanuatu if deep sea mining activity is properly conducted and balanced with appropriate environmental, legal and financial management.

The draft Policy sets out Vanuatu's vision and strategic goals in relation to its deep sea minerals, and will form the basis for future drafting of laws in line with the policy.

The DSM Project places great emphasis on the importance of a consultative approach, and encourages all Governments to involve concerned citizens in decisions that may affect natural resources and the environment. The DSM Project will continue to work with Vanuatu's multi-stakeholder National Offshore Minerals Committee,

which includes the Vanuatu Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (VANGO), as they progress this work.

Environment Advisor for the DSM Project, Ms Alison Swaddling participated in the first meeting along with representatives from: Nautilus Minerals, Npetune Minerals and NIWA. The DSM Project commends Vanuatu for approaching the development of their deep sea minerals policy in an open, transparent and fully participatory way.

EU Ambassador to Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, Mr Leonidas Tezapsidis, congratulated the Vanuatu Government on their progress, stressing the importance of the process, particularly on sensitive issues like deep sea mining. He said Vanuatu citizens can engage in and influence the country's Deep Sea Mining Policy via the newly established committee and the EU encourages this.

Vanuatu is preparing to resume consultations on the Seabed Mining Draft at the end of April 2015.

The draft of the national Deep Sea Minerals Policy is publically available on the Ministry of Lands website (<http://mol.gov.vu/>).



Participants for the Consultation meeting for the draft Deep Sea Minerals Policy in Port Vila, Vanuatu, 7 October 2014.

Transparency identified as means of strengthening Ocean Governance in DSM context

The 2014 Potsdam Ocean Governance Workshop brought together outstanding scientists and representatives from governments, international organizations and civil society to explore possible new entry points to ocean sustainability.

DSM Project Legal Advisor, Ms Marie Bourrel, attended the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS) 2014 workshop in Germany from 24 October-5 November 2014.

The workshop provided an opportunity for Ms Bourrel to raise awareness on the DSM Project, including DSM developments within the Pacific region. At the same time, it allowed for contributions to discussions with experts from all origins on "Transparency in a DSM



Photo credit: IASS/Agentur StandArt

Participants at the 2014 Ocean Governance workshop in Potsdam, Germany.

context” and to identify lessons learned from the on-land mining industry that can be translated into DSM initiatives undertaken with the DSM Project in the future.

The workshop was also an opportunity to raise awareness on the socio-economic, political and environmental specificities of the Pacific region and the wide range of issues faced by Pacific countries.

The workshop discussions focused on what kind of activities and deliverables the DSM Project could undertake in partnership with these key institutions on issues such as “Transparency”, strengthening the relationship with ISA and engaging with other stakeholders to maximize collaborative and complementary activities for future actions.



Photo credit: IASS/Agentur StandArt

Participants at the 2014 Ocean Governance workshop in Potsdam, Germany.

Ensuring effective DSM engagement in Timor Leste



Participants at the 2014 DSM Training workshop in Dili, Timor Leste.

On 19 November 2014, Timor Leste officially became the newest member of SPC, after a paper was presented by the Secretariat to the Forty Fourth Meeting of the Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations (CRGA) in Noumea, New Caledonia.

This development coincided with a training workshop held in Dili by the DSM Project. The workshop engaged and informed key stakeholders on legal, environmental and geological aspects of

deep sea minerals and their extraction. EU Head of Delegation to Timor Leste, H.E Ms Sylvie Tabesse said the workshop will lay a solid platform for policy-makers to make informed decisions that encapsulate economic growth with sustainable development.

Accompanying the DSM Project team was international marine geology expert, Dr James Hein, a senior scientist at the US Geological Survey. Dr Hein, who has 40 years work experience as a marine geologist, studying deep sea minerals in many parts of the world made many informative presentations at the workshop.

A representative from the Government of Papua New Guinea (PNG), Mr Pilia Niru, attended the workshop to share his experiences on the PNG Solwara 1 Project, which is set to become the first deep-sea mine in the world.

DSM Legal Adviser, Marie Bourrel, and Environment Adviser, Alison Swaddling, also made presentations at the workshop to help the participants learn and understand the legal and environment concepts and issues around DSM.

A total of 46 participants, representing government agencies, the private sector, civil society organisations and local communities attended the four-day workshop. The DSM Project is encouraged that the workshop in Timor Leste was a success and looks forward to working with Timor Leste in the future.

Marine Bio-Propecting workshop discusses linking marine management and development

A Marine Bio-Propecting workshop was held in Sydney, Australia from the 10-13 November 2014 by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the Access and Benefit Sharing Initiative (ABS). DSM Project Environment Adviser, Alison Swaddling, was invited to attend and present at the Sydney workshop.

The ABS initiative established in 2006, supports the development and implementation of national regulations with regards to marine genetic resources of ACP States.

This workshop aimed to support the ratification and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in the Pacific region by providing an opportunity for exchange of experiences and learning among stakeholders from all Pacific countries.

The discussions centered on addressing the challenges of regulating marine bio-propecting and included potential overlaps with the Deep Sea Minerals industry.

Ms Swaddling participated by delivering a presentation giving an overview of the DSM project, DSM developments in the region, environmental management strategies and the potential for overlap with the bio-propecting industry.

Ms Swaddling said workshops such as this are an important activity as it promotes cooperation and collaboration between industries, such as DSM and bio-propecting. The workshop highlighted linkages between the two industries and identified key lessons from DSM, which could be applied to marine genetic resources.



DSM Environment Adviser, Alison Swaddling informs workshop participants of linkages between the two industries.

Research vessel coming to the east Pacific in 2017

DSM Project Environment Adviser, Alison Swaddling, attended an Ocean Exploration Trust (OET) in San Francisco, from December 11-13 2014.

The OET is a research organization founded by Dr Robert Ballard and sponsored by institutions, such as National Geographic and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). OET is primarily an academic exploration organization that operates the Exploration Vessel Nautilus conducting deep sea exploration and research all over the world.

The vessel will be coming to the East Pacific in 2016-2017, and as many of the DSM Project's member countries have requested assistance in filling gaps in their mineral and biological data within their EEZ, Ms Swaddling attended the workshop highlighting this critical need.

The workshop also presented an opportunity to develop working relationships with OET and academia for future collaboration and capacity building for the benefit of Pacific Island nations. Ms Swaddling said that having the research vessel in the region is an amazing opportunity for Pacific countries. This and other future exploration cruises in the region will help to increase knowledge of deep sea mineral resources and the environmental impacts of their extraction. After the East Pacific research has been conducted the OET plans to move to the west Pacific.

The OET provides at-sea training internships for undergraduates and graduates of ocean science, engineering and video/film. Visit www.oceanexplorationtrust.org for more information or contact Ms Swaddling alisons@spc.int

Internship Programme

As part of its capacity-building initiative, the DSM Project has established successful Internship Programmes.

The internship vacancies are available on a rolling basis and preference is given to applicants from the 15 Pacific-ACP countries covered by the DSM Project. For more information on the internships or to apply, please visit the website: gsd.spc.int/dsm/index.php/get-involved

Internship	Number of Participants to Date
Legal Internships	16
Legal Government Attachments	8
GIS Internships	5
ISA Legal Internships	4
Geology Internships	4
Project Internships	4
Environment Internship	1
Communications Internship	1

Environment Intern

As part of its capacity-building objective, and following the success of the Legal Internship Scheme, the Project has now initiated an Environmental Internship Scheme. The aim of this scheme is to build a sustainable source of in-country environmental expertise, as the interns are encouraged to return to their country to work with national authorities involved in deep sea minerals activities.

This scheme will provide a two-month internship position with the Project at SPC's Geoscience Division (GSD) in Suva.

Name: Melino Bain-Vete

Country: Tonga

Duration: 6 November – 23 December 2014

Mr Bain-Vete was the first Environment Intern at the DSM Project. He worked closely with the Project's Environment Advisor, Ms Alison Swaddling, on developing Project-related publications in the environment context, including research tasks, amending the DSM EIA template and other ad hoc tasks for the DSM Project.

Mr Bain-Vete completed his Masters in Environmental Law and Sustainable Development at London University. Melino was previously a Legal Intern for the DSM Project and is interested in the juncture of environmental and legal aspects of DSM.



Melino Bain-Vete

Legal Intern

Name: Asterio Takashi

Country: Tuvalu

Duration: 20 October – 14 November 2014

Mr Takashi was the 16th legal intern to do his placement with the DSM Project. During his internship, he worked closely with the DSM Project Legal Adviser, Ms Marie Bourrel, and the DSM Project Legal Assistant Ms Annie Kwain Sing-Siose on legislative review of a particular SPC member country, regarding Deep Sea Minerals. Mr Takashi also compiled the Legislative Index for treaties, conventions and protocols.

Mr Takashi graduated from California State University Stanislaus with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice in 2004 and completed a double degree in Politics and Law from the University of the South Pacific (USP). His internship at the DSM Project is part of his Professional Diploma in Legal Practice (PDLP).



Asterio Takashi

Communication Intern

Name: Keresi Nauwakarawa

Country: Fiji

Duration: 19 September 2014 - 13 March 2015

Ms Nauwakarawa is the first Communications Intern with the DSM Project. She worked closely with the Project's Environment Advisor, Ms Alison Swaddling, on the DSM Project's public communications, such as media releases, brochures, website and newsletters.

Ms Nauwakarawa has a Certificate and Diploma from Fiji National University in Media and Journalism and is currently pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Law at the University of the South Pacific. She is interested in communicating key issues to the public so that they are informed.



Keresi Nauwakarawa

Staff Profile

Annie Kwan Sing -Siose

Legal Assistant, Deep Sea Minerals Project



Annie Kwan Sing -Siose

Annie completed her Bachelor of Law in July 2012 and PDLP (Professional Diploma in Legal Practice) in December 2012. She was the 5th Legal Intern for the DSM Project in November 2012 and, in May 2013, she became the DSM Project Legal Assistant. She assists DSM Legal Adviser Marie Bourrel with the legal aspects concerning deep sea mineral activities and organising the Legal Internship Scheme.

1) What do you hope to achieve in your current role?

There are many things that I would like to achieve as the DSM Legal Assistant but I guess the top concerns are the proper management and implementation of DSM legal framework throughout the 15 participating countries and the success of the legal internship scheme, grooming aspiring lawyers to be deep sea mineral legal experts.

2) What do you like most about your job?

I really enjoy reading agreements, policies, proposals and finding what is suitable for the country and what needs to be re-negotiated. I also love reviewing and drafting laws for our member countries which, at times, is challenging but also very rewarding.

3) Where are you from and what was it like growing up there?

I am from Fiji but I don't look Fijian because my Dad is part Chinese and my Mum is from Rabi/Kiribati. I spent nine years in Makoi, next to Narere just off Suva City. We had lots of neighbors and had many childhood friends so it was always fun playing in the afternoon and running around the block. Then we moved to Lautoka, Simla, where I spent five years. It was very different to Makoi, since it was more of a suburban neighborhood where children played within their compound and it was very quiet and boring. The only friends I had were my brothers and sisters.

4) What do you like to do when you're not at work?

I like to spend time with my husband and children (Telolomi – 4 years and Jochebed – 1 year), also read a book or two when my children are asleep.

5) Why did you choose to become a lawyer?

It kind of chose me; I took technology and science in high school because I was determined to be a civil engineer and was sure to be accepted at the technology school. I casually applied for a scholarship sponsored by the Kiribati Government to do law, which I copied from my older sister's friend's major (that she just told me about that minute) not expecting to get it. But in the end, I was not accepted by the technology school scholarship but I was awarded the Kiribati Government Sponsorship to do law. I was given a choice to go private or be sponsored and to help my Dad out. I chose to do law instead of the original plan to be a civil engineer and now, I love my job and have never regretted my decision to take the challenge and do law.

6) What's the one thing you'd really like to do that you have not done yet?

I would like to visit Banaba (Ocean Island) and see where my grandfather grew up.

7) What are the five things you can't live without?

The five things I can't live without are 1. My family, 2. My iPad (it has all my books in it), 3. My Watch, 4. My hair tie, I cannot walk around with my hair down and, lastly, 5. My wallet.

8) What is one thing people do not know about you that they'd be surprised to know?

I do not have a mirror in my room and have only four pairs of shoes (laughs), which is very unusual for a lady.

Get Involved

DSM Project Internships

The DSM Project offers internships in Law, Environment, Communication and Geology. For more information on the internships, visit the website: gsd.spc.int/dsm

DSM Project LinkedIn Group

The DSM Project has set up a LinkedIn Group Page:

<http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Deep-Sea-Minerals-Project-6646605>

Subscribe to this newsletter

This newsletter is available on the DSM Project's website. If you would like to receive automatic notification of its publication, please email: dsmproject@spc.int

This document has been produced with the financial assistance of the EU.
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For more information please contact: Geoscience Division (GSD), Secretariat of the Pacific Community,
Mead Road, Nabua, Fiji Islands. Tel. (+679) 3381377 / Fax. (+679) 3370040/3384461
Website: gsd.spc.int/dsm / email: SOPACDirector@spc.int