

7th International Symposium for Subsurface Microbiology

Shizuoka, Japan, 16–21 November 2008,
Regular Registration: 30 September 2008

The application of molecular approaches to the study of subsurface microbial ecology has been most encouraging in the past decade. As would naturally be expected, the deeper we delve, the more diverse the discoveries. For more detailed information, **contact: Prof. Kenji Kato** (Chair), **Sanami Nishida** (Secretary), e-mail: shizissm@ipc.shizuoka.ac.jp.

Distinguished Lecturer Program



Application Deadline
30 September 2008

ECORD is sponsoring an initiative for a lecture series to be given by leading scientists involved with the IODP. This program is designed to bring the exciting scientific discoveries of the IODP to the geosciences community. For more information, please contact: ESSAC Office (ECORD Science Support & Advisory Committee); e-mail: essac@cerege.fr, and apply via: <http://www.doodle.ch/4nxs78whk6xmedh9>.

IODP Conference on Future Scientific Ocean Drilling



The IODP is funded for the period 2003–2013, and is

now starting to plan for its renewal beyond 2013. A community-wide, major conference on future directions of scientific ocean drilling is planned for 23–25 September 2009. The meeting location will be the University of Bremen, Germany. Based on this conference and other planning documents including past and future workshops, a science plan that defines



Chikyu and the boundless ocean view from IODP Exp. 316. Photo courtesy JAMSTEC/IODP.

new goals and effectively meets the challenges of future ocean drilling will be drafted during 2010. The conference will be open to all scientists with an interest in scientific ocean drilling. More information at <http://www.iodp.org>.

Internships Available in Scientific Drilling



DOSECC Internships promote student involvement in projects where drilling has provided data and materials for study. Students can undertake research related to ongoing or past drilling efforts. The internships are open to undergraduate or graduate students, and primary and secondary school teachers worldwide. Internship funding will be available in the summer of 2009 and budgets of \$2,000 to \$5,000 are appropriate. See application details at: <http://www.dosecc.org/html/internship.html>. **Contact: David Zur**, e-mail: dzur@dosecc.org.

Distinguished Lecture Series



DOSECC's Distinguished Lecture Series makes available geoscientists to give talks or lectures on their areas of expertise. DOSECC covers travel costs for the lecturers, and the host institution is asked to provide food and lodging costs. Lecture themes include:

- Paleoclimate and Human Evolution;
- Global sea-level changes over the past 100 million years;
- Celestial Mechanics, Mass Extinctions, and Giant Volcanic Eruptions;
- 32 Million Years of Astronomical Forcing of Climate from Tropical, Triassic-Jurassic Pangea;
- New insights into African paleoclimate from the Lake Malawi Drilling Project;
- Sublacustrine Paleoseismology: Coring Earthquake Event Horizons in the Great Salt Lake; and
- Terrestrial Impact Cratering: The Earth's Record of Bombardment from Space.

Further details and speaker contact information is available at http://www.dosecc.org/html/distinguished_lectures.html. To apply, **contact: David Zur**, e-mail: dzur@dosecc.org.

ICDP Drilling Training



Geoscientists leading drilling missions need special management skills,

but this know-how is often not part of their academic background. Industry helps by providing training, but scientists usually start learning on the job during a drilling project. The Operational Support Group of ICDP offers a comprehensive one-week training course covering key topics of scientific drilling to address this issue. The idea is not only to transfer specific knowledge and expertise but also to demonstrate the dependencies and linkages among different subjects involved, especially between engineering and science. Classes are taught by specialized instructors with practical industrial or academic experience in several basic modules. Content and training level can be customized (deadline for training proposals is 15 January each year), and costs for invited participants are paid by ICDP.

The 2007 ICDP Training was held in Germany at the drill site of the KTB from 5–9 November, attracting 33 scientists from 19 countries. A highlight of the training, in addition to the lectures at the fully equipped field lab and core repository, was an excursion to two drill sites, at a 4.5-km-deep geothermal well and a site where the newly developed scientific drilling facility InnovaRig was located.

ICDP training is usually held in conjunction with an active drilling project to bridge the gap between the classroom and practical applications in the field and to provide training on the job.

The next ICDP training is scheduled for 6–10 October 2008 in Germany. Further information: <http://www.icdp-online.org>

Contact: Thomas Wöhrl, ICDP, GFZ Potsdam, e-mail: woehrl@gfz-potsdam.de

MSPHDS Professional Development Program



Partnering with the MSPHDS (Minorities Striving and Pursuing Higher Degrees of Success in Earth System Science)

Professional Development Program, the Consortium for Ocean Leadership supported four students to attend the IODP Science Steering and Evaluation Panel meet-

ing in Busan, Korea. Mentored by panel members, the students gained an inside look at the proposal process for a large-scale science program and had the opportunity to meet and discuss science issues with international colleagues. One student commented, "The importance of writing succinct proposals with clear and concise objectives was a great lesson learned by observing the meeting." See details at <http://oceanleadership.org/diversity/professionals>

New Member of IODP: Australia



An agreement between the Australian Research Council and the Lead Agencies of IODP to make Australia an Associate Member of IODP effective 1 January 2008 was in the process of final signing by early July 2008. The Australian membership is intended to be amended by membership of New Zealand within a joint AUS-NZ consortium.

New Members of ICDP: Sweden and Switzerland



The Swedish Deep Drilling Program (SDDP) was initiated in early 2007 to address fundamental issues of the dynamic Earth system including (Palaeo)proterozoic orogens or ore genesis. The SDDP working group is planning a drilling program to attract funding for four world-class deep boreholes over a ten-year period.

Recently, the strongly anticipated financial support for a Swedish ICDP membership has been granted by the Swedish Research Council, greatly supporting the efforts of SDDP. Please visit the SDDP website at <http://www.sddp.se> for information.

Contact: Henning Lorenz, e-mail: henning.lorenz@geo.uu.se

ICDP Switzerland was initiated during the Swiss ICDP meeting on 1 February 2008 by about fifty scientists. Several are involved in ongoing or planned paleoclimate drilling projects and are discussing projects in Quaternary deep Alpine valleys and the Ivrea Zone. The Swiss National Science Foundation recently assured the Swiss participation for the next five years. **Contact: Flavio Anselmetti**, e-mail: flavio.anselmetti@eawag.ch, and web link: <http://www.swiss-drilling.ethz.ch>.

Joint EUROFORUM 2008



For the first time, IODP and ICDP held a joint EUROFORUM meeting during the EGU General Assembly in Vienna on 17 April 2008. This afternoon meeting provided eleven talks in a platform to exchange latest research highlights of various drilling projects covering new NanTroSEIZE results, paleoclimate science on various marine and terrestrial archives, as well as deep subsurface life and the planned volcanic risk research at Campi Flegrei.

The EUROFORUM was followed by a Joint Town Hall Meeting for latest program development updates and discussions.

First Joint IODP-ICDP Town Hall Meeting held in Japan



J-DESC sponsored the first joint IODP-ICDP town hall meeting on 27 May, while Japan Geoscience Union Meeting 2008 was also being held in Japan. The town hall event got ~100 scientists and graduate students together to exchange program news and other information. This will be an annual event.

The Thrill to Drill in Japanese

The ICDP brochure "The Thrill to Drill" was produced jointly by ICDP and J-DESC Japan in 2006 in English, and now its Japanese version is available from J-DESC or can be downloaded from www.j-desc.org.

Deep Earth Academy's Sea90E Poster and Web Site



Deep Earth Academy's poster and Web site won a 2008 Distinguished Achievement Award from the Association of Educational Publishers in the category of curriculum for teaching science for grades for six to eight, and more information at <http://www.aepweb.org/awards/curriculum.htm>. It features a bathymetry map, scientist profiles, student Q&As, and science challenges. See poster at <http://www.oceanleadership.org/learning/materials/posters/sea90poster>.

Aurora Borealis: A European Project

The European Commission identified developing of the icebreaker *Aurora Borealis* for the highest scientific priority. A European Research Icebreaker Consortium (ERICON) of 15 institutions, funding agencies and companies from 10 European nations, including Russia, has been formed to develop management structures for this unique facility and to implement it into the European Research Area. The Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research coordinates the final engineering work for the development with funds from the German Federal Ministry for Science and Education. In December 2007, SCHIFFKO GmbH was awarded a design contract for the initial design concept (Fig.1), general arrangement planning, and full tender documentation. Currently the ice-tank and open water tests are being carried out. The new technical details include:

- 55 MW, twin hull icebreaker
- 201 m length, 49 m width
- 15 kn max. speed
- dynamic positioning, two moon pools
- riserless drilling, in max. 5000 m water for 1000 m core

Contact: Dr. Nicole Biebow, AWI, 27568 Bremerhaven, Germany, e-mail: nicole.biebow@awi.de, web link at : www.eri-aurora-borealis.eu.



Figure 1. Side view of the *Aurora Borealis*, detailed cross sections.

D/V Chikyu Undergoes Repairs



Damage to the azimuth thruster gears on the D/V *Chikyu* was discovered during a dry-dock survey in the late spring of 2008. Fabrication and reassembly of six new gears are expected to be completed by January 2009, after which NanTroSEIZE drilling operations will resume (see back cover for schedule).