

Dear Reader:

This volume 14 of *Scientific Drilling* presents you with three new reports (pp. 4, 30, and 34) of the Nankai Trough Seismogenic Zone Experiment (NanTroSEIZE). This major project using the riser-drilling-capable drilling vessel *Chikyu* is now approaching the final and ambitious goal of drilling deep into a fault system that is known to repeatedly generate magnitude 8+ earthquakes. By the time this volume arrives at your desk, drilling of the final and deep riser hole will have begun. Actually, that was scheduled to have happened one year ago, but damage to *Chikyu* by the 11 March 2011 magnitude 9.0 earthquake and related tsunami caused a delay. Also, the Integrated Ocean Drilling Program (IODP) made it a priority to conduct a rapid response drilling into the fault that moved during the megaquake. The extremely demanding drilling in nearly 7000 meters of water within the Japan Trench was completed by *Chikyu* during July 2012 with successful logging, coring, and borehole observatory installation as much as 800 meters below seabed (p. 77). We hope to bring a report on this scientific and technological feat soon.

Lake drilling continues to be a highly important and successful component of the International Continental Scientific Drilling Program (ICDP). On page 18 we issue a report on the Lake Van, eastern Turkey drilling campaign. With its location and long history, it is well positioned to provide an important regional climate and environmental record including geohazards (earthquake history). A workshop report (p. 72) on the potential for lake deposit drilling near Mexico City is another example of how regionally important information regarding the environment (climate, water supply, and seismicity) can be amassed by scientific drilling and provide a context for the interpretation of much shorter historical records of environmental change.

As editors, we feel obliged to inform you that essential IODP funding of this journal is not yet secured beyond spring 2013. In order to establish viable funding for operations of the *JOIDES Resolution*, the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) will assess the merits of every component of the current program before deciding on what functions will roll over into the new International Ocean Discovery Program, which is planned to replace the current IODP by October 2013. The science plan for the new IODP is well established (www.iodp.org/science-plan-for-2013-2023) and, with Brazil recently joining the current IODP, is now supported by as many as 26 nations. What is also known at this point is that the U.S. commitment to the new IODP is secured for a one-year period to start in October 2013. This new program will not be centrally managed like the current IODP, but work more like a confederation of programs under the umbrella of a common science plan (p. 76). The feasibility of the new program structure and its funding model will need to prove successful before a final and long-term commitment of the *JOIDES Resolution* to the new IODP is made by the NSF.

So, please stay tuned for both important new science reports and program news in the spring 2013 issue of *Scientific Drilling*. It could be a collector's item—hopefully because of exciting good news on all fronts within scientific drilling.



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Ulrich Harms
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Managing Editor

Front cover: Fine tephra layer that has been deformed in a microfold, indicating slumping, potentially induced by seismic shaking. (see page 26)

Left inset: Adding a clinometer data logger to a sensor carrier for the long-term borehole monitoring system (LTBMS) during Exp. 332. (see page 34)

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IODP is an international marine research drilling program dedicated to advancing scientific understanding of the Earth by monitoring and sampling seafloor environments. Through multiple drilling platforms, IODP addresses its four principal challenges: Climate and Ocean Change, Biosphere Frontiers, Earth Connections, and Earth in Motion.

ICDP is a multi-national program designed to promote and coordinate continental drilling projects with a variety of scientific targets at drilling sites of global significance.

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