



RV Marion Dufresne

News from the International Marine Global Change Study

In its fifth year, the IMAGES program now includes 24 countries as members: Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Russia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Tunisia, United Kingdom and USA.

The IMAGES Office relocated last year to Kiel University, Germany, where Michael Sarnthein serves as Executive Director, Ann Holbourn as Assistant Director and Stefan Rothe as Data Manager.

IMAGES was initiated to respond to the challenge of understanding the mechanisms and consequences of climatic changes at time scales of decades to millennia using oceanic sedimentary records. IMAGES plans and coordinates oceanic cruises to retrieve giant sediment cores and supports relevant workshops and symposia. Specific information can be found on the IMAGES website: <http://www.images-pages.org>.

Cruises

Over the last five years, the IMAGES program has retrieved more than 400 long cores (30–60 m) from the major ocean basins. In the next three years IMAGES plans a series of cruises with *RV Marion Dufresne* to retrieve cores from key areas with sufficiently high sedimentation rates (20 cm/kyr or more) to allow paleoclimatic studies with a temporal resolution of decades to centuries or better. Currently, preparations for three IMAGES cruises in 2001 are being finalized: West Pa-

cific (May-June), Pakistan (October) and Mediterranean and Iberian margin (mid August-mid September). A cruise program along the west American margin, Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean is in preparation for 2002, and a Southern Ocean cruise is planned for 2003.

Working Groups

Terminal Millennial Synthesis of Decadal-to-Millennial-Scale Climate Records of the last 80 kyr, co-chaired by M. Sarnthein and J. Kennett, held a workshop with more than 50 scientists in Trins, Austria in February 2000. A short report was published in EOS. A third workshop is now planned for late May 2001 at the University of California, Santa Barbara to actualize publication of a special issue of Quaternary Science Review and to synthesize the present state of knowledge and future perspectives.

WEPAMA (West Pacific Margins), chaired by M-T. Chen, will hold a meeting on 22nd-23rd February 2001 in Taipei, Taiwan, with main focus on "Western Pacific Oceanography: New Techniques and Directions".

EPILOG (Environmental Processes of the Ice Age: Land, Ocean and Glaciers), co-chaired by A. Mix, E. Bard, and P. Clark, organized a workshop with approximately 50 scientists last October in Oregon. Outcome of the meeting was a short report published in EOS. A special volume is now in preparation.

SEAMONS (South East Asian Monsoon), chaired by P. Wang,

plans to hold an informal meeting in May 2001 together with the Leg 184 Postcruise meeting in Beijing. A final synthesis meeting is planned for 2002.

Three new Working Groups have been created:

- 1) The Ice-Ocean Interaction WG co-chaired by Eystein Jansen and John Andrews.
- 2) The Southern Ocean WG co-chaired by Andreas Mackensen and Rob Dunbar.
- 3) A Paleo-JGOFS joint task team representing a cooperation between the IGBP core projects PAGES and JGOFS with Karin Lochte as chair.

Upcoming Meetings:

Global Change Open Science Conference: "Challenges of a Changing Earth", 10–14 July 2001, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. A special Poster Session is being organized on IMAGES related research. Chair will be Michael Sarnthein.

International Conference on Paleoceanography VII, 16–22 September 2001, Sapporo, Japan. IMAGES funds will be available to subsidize the travel costs of young scientists (students and postdocs within three years of their PhD) who receive no travel support to attend the ICPVII in Sapporo. (see IMAGES website for details).

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