



CALL

for scientists based in Europe and Canada IODP Expedition 337 – Deep coalbed biosphere off Shimokita

with the Chikyu drilling vessel
(March 15, 2011 – May 21, 2011)

DEADLINE November 30, 2010



The European Consortium for Ocean Research Drilling (ECORD)

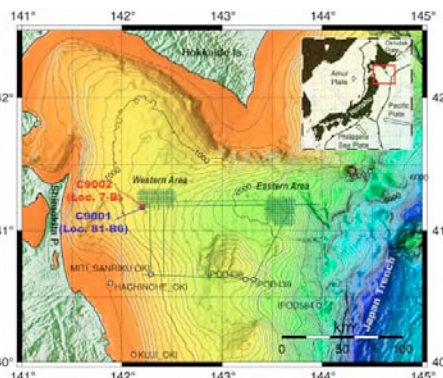
offers you the unique possibility to sail in the framework of the Integrated Ocean Drilling Program (IODP), an international research program for drilling at sea.

Scientific Aims CDEX plans to implement IODP Expedition 337: Deep coalbed biosphere off Shimokita, starting in 15th March, 2011. The expedition will focus on microbial and biogeochemical processes, as well as basic studies on geological aspects and physical properties, in and around the Eocene coalbed at ~2000 mbsf.

Science Objectives The objective of this expedition is to deepen a hole and recover core samples down to the target Eocene lignite coalbed. The core samples will be used to investigate geological, geophysical, (bio-)geochemical and (geo-)microbiological features of the formation, with a view to expand our knowledge on coalbed subsurface hydrocarbon system and the deep biosphere. Particular focus will be made on deep subsurface life and the biosphere down to 2200 mbsf, in a habitat that has never been reached by previous scientific ocean drilling. We will investigate active microbial communities and geological processes in the thermally immature coalbed at great burial depths.

Operation Plan / Scientific Background further information is available on our website

<http://www.essac.ecord.org/index.php?mod=participation&page=applytosail>



Timing Current plan is that the expedition starts on 15th March, and ends on 21st May. This would allow 68 days of offshore operation. Since the first week is spent for preparation of riser drilling without producing any scientific data, Science Party will get onboard Chikyu via helicopter on around 20th March, and will disembark on 21st May at the port of Hachinohe. This schedule is still subject to change. Update and latest information will be available at CDEX website (<http://www.jamstec.go.jp/chikyu/eng/CHIKYU/index.html>).

Science party CDEX will organize a full science party to conduct a standard core analysis flow. By the start of this expedition, new radioisotope lab will be installed to conduct onboard radioisotope experiments. In addition to core samples, cuttings and gas samples will be continuously collected from circulating drilling mud. Mud-gas logging will be conducted by using a newly installed gas monitoring system. Contamination test by chemical tracer in drilling mud will also be attempted. To complete these onboard analyses, CDEX will organize science party including co-chiefs scientists, sedimentologists, organic and inorganic geochemists (including mud gas monitoring), microbiologists, physical property specialists, micropaleontologists, logging scientists and other specialists such as hydrocarbon reservoir rock specialists.

Application Process Scientists interested in participating, please consult the ESSAC webpage <http://www.essac.ecord.org/index.php?mod=user>.

Required documents (PDF only) are: **1)** a CV **2)** a letter of interest including your specific expertise, previous involvement in DSDP/ ODP/ IODP expeditions, research interest **3)** a publication list.

Young researchers must additionally provide a letter of support from their host institution including information on the post-cruise science support: How to achieve the proposed scientific objectives in the future (funding scheme and support from host institution).

Please send a copy of your application documents to your national office/delegate in order they can help to support your application, see <http://www.essac.ecord.org/index.php?mod=about&page=ESSAC>.



For further information or questions please contact:

ESSAC Office

ECORD Science Support & Advisory Committee

AWI - Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research

Am Alten Hafen 26

27568 Bremerhaven, Germany

Tel: +49 (0)471 4831 2252 /-1576

Email: essac.office@awi.de

Web Page: <http://www.essac.ecord.org>

Sailing Applicant: <http://www.essac.ecord.org/index.php?mod=user>

Tutorial: <http://www.essac.ecord.org/index.php?mod=user&page=tutorialregister>

RSS News feeds: <http://www.essac.ecord.org/index.php?mod=education&page=rss>