



Jean-Pierre Henriët (1945-2017)



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We are very sad to announce that the former Belgian ECORD Council Member, Professor Jean-Pierre Henriët, passed away on 22 April 2017.

Jean-Pierre Henriët was born on June 28th, 1945 in Ghent, Belgium where he spent most of his career as a distinguished marine geologist. Jean-Pierre was still Honorary Professor of Ghent University and member of the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Sciences and Arts when he passed away.

Jean-Pierre Henriët was actively involved in the initiation of a European effort to become an active player in scientific ocean drilling. After his move to Ifremer (1990-1995) where he was appointed as Director of the Marine Geosciences Department, and his subsequent return to the Renard Centre of Marine Geology (RCMG) at Ghent University, Jean-Pierre Henriët initiated "CORSAIRES" (Coring Stable and Instable Realms in European Seas), which was the first European concerted action on that matter.

The CORSAIRES project was set up in 1996 by the European Commission under the MAST programme. This seminal concerted action aimed at contributing to the development of a wide spectrum of activities for scientific teams, and a coordinated access to specific

drilling vessels to projects and programmes. With this project Jean-Pierre Henriet was one of the first European geoscientists to strengthen the need for consistent pan-European scientific research drilling programmes. This EU Concerted Action emphasized the use of offshore coring and drilling to ground truth seismic surveys and to contribute to a broad spectrum of ocean scientific investigations. One important achievement was the development of new equipment such as the EU-funded Hammer Corer and the development of the BRIDGE drill as part of the NERC BRIDGE programme, which led to the improvement of the BGS Rock-Drill.

During his career, Jean-Pierre Henriet drove forward important initiatives for the Belgian scientific community and took part in the creation of the Renard Centre of Marine Geology (RCMG) at Ghent University. This center was named after Professor Alphonse-François Renard (1842-1903) who made the first map of the distribution of deep-sea sediments, and who studied the first manganese nodules acquired during the famous H.M.S. Challenger cruise from 1872 to 1876.

Jean-Pierre Henriet initiated IODP proposal 573 which formed the basis of the IODP Expedition #307 “Modern Carbonate Mounds: Porcupine Drilling”.

As member of the European Committee on Ocean and Polar Sciences (ECOPS) and of the European Science Foundation (ESF), Jean-Pierre Henriet provided a synthesis of the major milestones relating to the Grand Challenges associated with climate variability and climate change, in 2015. Jean-Pierre organised the ECORD Facility Board meeting in Brussels in June 2016. One of his last actions was to provide an insight into the near future and a discussion on human resources and infrastructure for European ocean and polar sciences to the European Scientific Community.

Many geoscientists lost a very active and bright scientist but also a friend.

ECORD expresses its condolences to his family and to the EMB.

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