The Sunda Shelf in Southeast Asia has long been identified as a strategic and high-quality target region for scientific drilling using MSP techniques. Two strong proposals have been developed in the past (IODP 1005 and IODP 1007) providing an opportunity to build synergies and develop conceptual ideas for a land-to-sea perspective for the Sunda Shelf region within the framework of the new IODP-Cubed.

A 2.5-day workshop followed by a half day training session, led by and designed for Early Career Researchers (ECRs), was held from 9-11 October 2023 at the Lyell Centre at Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh, UK. With 66 participants, split equally between on campus and online, from Europe the USA, and Asia the workshop was truly international with a strong representation of 26 ECRs.

The workshop was organised around two main topics: the advancement of IODP 1005 and the development of new conceptual ideas for a land-to-sea drilling perspective. Representatives of the ICDP research community joined the workshop and supported a vibrant discussion about Land-to-Sea perspective. The first day covered overview presentation, with contributions from both the IODP and ICDP community. These presentations and initial discussions were taken to the 2nd day breakout groups where participants rotated between both sessions. This strategy developed deep discussion and excellent outcomes. The final morning session was used to create synergies, allocate work tasks and agree on timelines for action.

Moving forward, IODP China invited for a sister workshop in Shanghai from the 8-9th November 2023, focusing the discussion on IODP 1007 with a participation of 45 experts mainly from SE Asian countries. Wagner and Hanebuth represented the Edinburgh team at this workshop. The enthusiasm from the workshop continues, with active writing teams supporting the revision of IODP 1005 and intense communication between ICDP and IODP communities about new joined goals. As a follow on to the Edinburgh workshop, Wagner plans to hold two 1-day discussion meetings in March 2024, jointly invited by colleagues from GRID in Bandung, Indonesia, and the Nanayang Technological University in Singapore. We all anticipated that these national meetings will further catalyse the development of a full scale scientific drilling initiative for the wider Sunda Shelf region.

For further information on the Edinburgh workshop see our life blog at [https://youtu.be/s8sKuS43o_8](https://youtu.be/s8sKuS43o_8).

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