

Visiting the *JOIDES Resolution* in Portugal - an offer taken up by many

The offer to visit the *JOIDES Resolution* (*JR*) in Ponta Delgada, Los Azores, and Lisbon was well received, with a total of 858 visitors to the ship (*below*). To accommodate such a high number of visitors in just 4 days (2 in each port) the usual 1.5 hour long tour for *JR* visits had to be changed. Leslie Peart from the Consortium for Ocean Leadership (USA) came up with a new four-stop tour - **Catwalk/ Core Lab/ Cabin/ Bridge** - allowing the visitors to see the most essential sections of the *JR* in about 45-50 minutes. The new tour plan was tested during the Ponta Delgada port call and used again in Lisbon.

	Ponta Delgada	Lisbon	Total
High-school students and teachers	190	114	304
University students, researchers and professors	37	206	243
Scientists from State Labs and other institutes		102	102
General public and Ciência Viva outreach centres	20	58	78
Media	6	25	31
Government and funding agencies reps	9	91	100

Statistics on visitors to JR during Mediterranean Outflow Exp. port calls

When Helder Pereira, the Portuguese Education Officer sailing on Exp. 339, mentioned the possibility to visit the *JR* to his fellow teachers in the Azores, the response was so overwhelming that not all requests could be accommodated. In the end 175 students and 15 teachers from high schools in Ponta Delgada, Lagoa and Ribeira Grande (all on São Miguel island) came to visit the ship. Besides the four-stop tour there was another "first" during this port call when the high-school teachers themselves gave the tours, with a scientist, Helder Pereira or Leslie Peart, "shadowing" and being available to help if needed. To help prepare the teachers, Helder Pereira translated the tour guide into Portuguese and in the evening of November 17 all the teachers visited the *JR* to learn the tour route, to ask questions and to be treated to dinner onboard the *JR* sponsored by the Consortium for Ocean Leadership. The school tours were a great success as shown by the many smiling faces seen in the respective group pictures taken by each class in front of the *JR* with their tour guides! The second day of visits was aimed towards students, researchers and professors from the Azores University, especially from the Center for Volcanology (*photo 1*), the general public, and officials from the local government.

During the Lisbon port call the focus was more on visitors from universities and research institutes in Portugal and Spain (*table*). The visitors from Spain (total of 83) came mostly from the Geological and Mining Institute (IGME) and the universities of Vigo, Salamanca and Granada and their tours were led by the Spanish scientists who sailed on Exp. 339 and by Carlota Escutia, the current ESSAC Chair (*photo 2*). On the Portuguese side, the possibility to visit the *JR* was announced on the webpage of the Faculty of Science at the University Lisbon (FCUL). University groups came from Lisbon, Aveiro and Faro involving geology,



Photo 1: Students from the University of the Azores visiting the Catwalk with Gary Acton (photo courtesy of Eduardo Pinto).

oceanography and biology students. High-school groups from the Lisbon area and the Algarve also visited the ship. Most school students came from the high school in Loulé where Helder Pereira is teaching. One high-school group from Albufeira, who had been involved in a ship-to-shore conference during Exp. 339, was so eager to see the ship in port that they did not mind boarding a bus at 6:30 am to start their trip to Lisbon! Scientific outreach activities in Portugal are largely managed by the Ciência Viva centres (*see ECORD Newsletter #16*). Personnel from the centres in Lousal and Estremoz came to visit and the centre in Lisbon incorporated the visit to *JR* in its current programme enabling 24 visitors from the general public to see the ship.



Photo 2: Carlota Escutia on tour with students from the University of Salamanca (photo John Beck & IODP).

Despite the high number of visitors everything went smoothly and the visits were well received by all. This would not have been possible without the help of Sarah Saunders and Leslie Peart from the Consortium for Ocean Leadership and the Deep Earth Academy who provided outreach material for both port calls, the scientists willing to lead or to shadow the tours, and the TAMU and SIEM personnel of Exp. 339 and Exp. 340T who had to work around the tours. IODP Portugal and IODP Spain greatly appreciate your support!

Antje Voelker, ESSAC Delegate Portugal, Helder Pereira, Exp. 339 Education Officer and Carlota Escutia, ESSAC Chair



Earthquakes, Climate Change & Rivers of Sand Media conference JOIDES Resolution in Lisbon

In the late morning of January 16 the US drillship the *JOIDES Resolution* entered the mouth of the Tejo River following 8 weeks at sea carrying out drilling operations for the IODP Mediterranean Outflow Expedition. Shortly after, the ship passed the historic Torre de Belem watchtower before berthing at the docks of Alcantara, a few hundred metres upriver of the famous Ponte 25 de Abril, which very much resembles the Golden Gate Bridge (*front cover*).

In the weeks leading up to this, many emails had been exchanged between the vessel, Ocean Leadership and ECORD colleagues who were busy organising the port-call activities, including a reception (*below and page 6*) and a media conference.

The intense and smoothly running cooperation yielded a lot of fruit. The media conference held in the Centro Científico e Cultural de Macau was very well attended. Four TV channels, including a Spanish station, all major Portuguese newspapers, the national Portuguese and Spanish news agency plus one radio journalist attended the media conference. The event was also attended by staff of the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology and the press attaché from the German Embassy.

The speakers were introduced by Albert Gerdes following which Patricia Maruéjol presented information about IODP and ECORD. Fernando Barriga from Lisbon University added insight on Portugal's role within ECORD and IODP, then Co-chief Scientists Dorrik Stow (Heriot Watt University Edinburgh) and

Javier Hernandez-Molina (University of Vigo) presented the first findings of the Mediterranean Outflow Expedition, which drilled both on the west Iberian margin and in the Gulf of Cadiz. During their lively presentations Dorrik and Javier touched on climate history issues, the closing and reopening of the Straits of Gibraltar, and the so-called contourite sands, which were deposited in that area.

The presentations were followed by a Q&A session during which some journalists wanted to learn more about different aspects of the cruise. A number of individual interviews were held with the Co-chief Scientists (*photo*).

There was not much time left before the group had to board the bus and head to Alcantara docks and a tour of the *JR*. Ocean Leadership colleagues Jay Miller and Leslie Peart, expedition scientist Antje Voelker, and Education Officer Helder Pereira welcomed the journalists to the ship's conference room. After a brief introduction, the journalists were divided into two groups and enjoyed a tour of the vessel. Two hours later the last participant stepped off the gangway and checked out at the port security gate.



After the media conference, Javier Hernandez-Molina, Co-chief Scientist, gave an interview onboard the JOIDES Resolution (photo J. Beck & IODP).

An interesting and successful day came to an end. As Sarah Saunders, the Director of Science Communication at Ocean Leadership put it: "I have rarely seen so many journalists on board during a *JR* port call!"

Albert Gerdes, ESO Press Relations

ECORD-IODP sessions and reception in Lisbon

ECORD Portugal, together with the ECORD Managing Agency worked with the US Implementing Organization (USIO) to take advantage of the *JOIDES Resolution* port call in Lisbon.

High-level representatives from ECORD member countries, as well as top senior politicians, members of the media and university colleagues from Portugal, were invited to a reception on January 18, 2012. The programme included a tour of the ship (*photo page 5*) and a special session dedicated to a presentation of IODP and the first results of Mediterranean Outflow Expedition. At the same time, ECORD Portugal, in consultation with the NSF (National Science Foundation-USA), decided to pay tribute to key individuals to whom ECORD and IODP are greatly indebted. Those chosen were Mário Ruivo (Portugal) for his lifelong dedication to marine science and technology, and for his key role in Portugal becoming a founding member of ECORD; Gerold Wefer (Germany), Catherine Mével (France) and John Ludden (UK), for their outstanding roles in establishing and managing ECORD; and Jamie Austin (USA) for his lifelong involvement in DSDP, ODP and IODP.

The reception and special sessions held at the Centro Científico e Cultural de Macau, were a great success, as they gathered about 150 people, including a former President of Portugal, 3 Parliament Members, 2 Secretaries of State, one advisor to the President, the former Minister of Higher Education and Science, several University Rectors, Presidents of learned societies and many others, especially scientists and decision makers from Portugal, Spain and other ECORD countries (Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany and Poland).

The success of these events speaks eloquently for the positive and extensive interest that exists at all levels in Portugal regarding ocean drilling affairs. We are sure that the participation of Portugal in ECORD was strengthened by Expedition 339 and the associated events in Portugal. Providing the opportunity to actually assess the remarkable facilities offered to scientists by the *JOIDES Resolution* came at the right time, as funding agencies in Europe are about to decide on the continuation of ECORD post-2013.

Fernando J.A.S. Barriga (Council Delegate), Olga Dias (Council Alternate), Luis Pinheiro (ESSAC Alternate) and Antje Voelker (ESSAC Delegate)