

ECORD Teachers Workshop:

Exploring the Ocean Floor with the Integrated Ocean Drilling Program

The Earth's oceans are important regions of research exploration because they play key roles in driving the Earth's climate, are very geologically active and preserve sedimentary and rock records that provide a detailed climate and tectonic history of the Earth over the last 200 million years. The Integrated Ocean Drilling Program (IODP) is the only international research program that provides scientists from all over the world with long, continuous sediment and rock records to study the Earth's history in these very important regions. The European Consortium for Ocean Research Drilling (ECORD) is the European branch of IODP, which also includes scientists from the USA, Japan, the People's Republic of China and South Korea.

The goal of the ECORD workshop is to provide teachers with information and material that can be used to enhance science classes for school students and to illustrate the excitement found in ocean research drilling.

Scientific talks designed specifically for school teachers by leading IODP scientists will highlight selected ocean drilling research topics important for humanity such as natural resources (gas hydrates), natural hazards (earthquakes, volcanic activity, undersea landslides and tsunamis) and natural climate variation (growth and decline of ice sheets and sea level change).

The ECORD teacher's workshop will also provide teachers with background speeches that introduce the highly specialized IODP research ships that drill sediment and rock cores for scientific studies, as well as an introduction to the international IODP websites where teachers and students can obtain scientific results, real-time information about current research cruises, and learning materials for use in their classrooms.