IODP³ Interim MSP Facility Board (iMSP-FB) Meeting

27 February 2025 (Virtual meeting over two 3-hour Zoom sessions)

Roster

MSP-FB Science Board Members:

Nobi Seama	**IODP³ MSP-FB Co-Chair, Kobe University, Japan**
Sasha Turchyn	**IODP³ MSP-FB Co-Chair, University of Cambridge, UK**
Yuki Morono	JAMSTEC, Japan
Michele Rebesco	OGS, Trieste, Italy
Gabi Uenzelmann-Neben	Alfred Wegener Institute, Germany
Jody Webster	University of Sydney, Australia

MSP-FB Members:

Angelo Camerlenghi	OGS, Trieste, Italy
Gilbert Camoin	ECORD Managing Agency, Director
Nobu Eguchi	MarE3, JAMSTEC, Japan/IODP³ Science Office, Co-Director
Ron Hackney	ANZIC Director, ANU, Australia
David McInroy	ECORD Science Operator, BGS, Edinburgh, UK
Sanny Saito	J-DESC, JAMSTEC, Japan

Liaisons and Observers:

Chiara Amadori	IODP³ Science Office, Proposals and Meetings Manager
Leonardo Barbosa	ECORD Science Operator, BGS, Edinburgh, UK
Sarah Davies	ECORD Science Operator, University of Leicester, UK
Jeremy Everest	ECORD Science Operator, BGS, Edinburgh, UK
Jodie Fisher	IODP³ Science Office, Communications, Applications and EDI Manager
Nadine Hallmann	ECORD Managing Agency, Deputy Director
Jun-Ichiro Ishibashi	J-DESC, JAMSTEC, Japan
Sarah Kachovich	ANZIC Program Manager, ANU, Australia
Myriam Kars	IODP³ Science Office, Publications Manager
Masataka Kinoshita	SEP Co-Chair, Earthquake Research Institute, The University of Tokyo, Japan
Yusuke Kubo	Kochi Core Center, Japan
Antony Morris	IODP³ Science Office, Lead Director
Kyoko Okino	University of Tokyo, Japan
Tim Reston	SEP Co-Chair, University of Birmingham, UK
Ulla Röhl	BCR, MARUM, Bremen
Tim van Peer	ECORD Science Operator, University of Leicester, UK

Minutes

1. Welcome and Purpose

The iMSP-FB Co-Chairs Sasha Turchyn and Nobi Seama called the meeting to order with a welcome and asked attendees to perform self-introductions before requesting acceptance of the Agenda. The main objective of the meeting was to consider 15 proposals (that were originally at the International Ocean Discovery Program Facility Boards and were resubmitted to IODP^3) potential implementation in 2026. It was pointed out that nine of these proposals are likely to be impossible to schedule in 2026 as they require the use of the *D/V Chikyu* (which is unavailable in 2026) and/or have safety and permitting issues that need to be resolved.

2. Reporting

- **Operator update from MarE3/JAMSTEC:** Nobu Eguchi made the following points in his presentation:
  - MarE3 intend to implement two, back-to-back IODP^3 expeditions in 2025 (Expedition 502 "Impact of Petit-Spot Magmatism on Subduction Zone Seismicity and Global Geochemical Cycles" and Expedition 503 "Hadal Trench Tsunamigenic Slip History"). These expeditions involve a total of 46 days of operations in the Japan Trench area, with a crew change in Sendai between expeditions.
  - The new JAMSTEC mid-long-term plan starts in April 2026
  - There is no budget available for IODP^3 operations using the *D/V Chikyu* in 2026
- **IODP^3 budget projections and long-term planning:** Gilbert Camoin presented an overview of the IODP^3 budgets for FY2025 and FY2026. The expected balances for operations were €8.3M in 2025 and €19M in 2026. Gilbert indicated that the aim for at least the first 5-years of IODP^3 should be to implement: (i) at least one offshore expedition per year (ideally two expeditions when budgets allow use of the *D/V Chikyu*); and (ii) three SPARC expeditions each year. The discussion following Gilbert's presentation included the suggestion that implementation of more expensive expeditions might require reducing operations to save sufficient budget. However, it was thought essential to implement an offshore expedition in 2026 and maintain a profile of at least one expedition per year thereafter to demonstrate the viability of the programme.

3. Proposal Discussions

Nine proposals were considered unsuitable for implementation in 2026 for the reasons indicated in the table below:

Proposal Number	Type	Lead Proponent	Short Title	Commentary
708	Full (Add5)	Juliane Müller	ArcOp	Previously scheduled as IODP Expedition 377. Not possible in 2026 because of geopolitical issues.
813	Full (Add2)	Trevor Williams	Antarctic Cenozoic Paleoclimate	Previously scheduled as IODP Expedition 373. There is greater potential to secure platforms for this proposal in 2027 and beyond.
839	Full (Add5)	Karsten Gohl	WAIS Development	Estimated costs exceed the 2026 budget (needs icebreaker).
864	Full (Add3)	Tom Dunkley-Jones	Brazil Margin	Previously scheduled as IODP Expedition 388. Discussion still ongoing between Brazil and NSF over this proposal.

Proposal Number	Type	Lead Proponent	Short Title	Commentary
941	Full2 (Add 4)	Yasuhiko Ohara	Godzilla Megamullion	Not feasible without the *D/V Chikyu* (unavailable in 2026)
945	Full (Add4)	Luigi Jovane	Brazilian Equatorial Margin	Discussion still ongoing between Brazil and NSF over this proposal.
967	Full	Takashi Sano	Ontong Java Plateau	Extremely challenging without the *D/V Chikyu* and costs exceed the 2026 budget.
979	Full2 (Add 3)	Wolfram Geissler	Arctic-Atlantic Gateway Paleoclimate	Previously scheduled as IODP Expedition 404. Needs a JR-type platform and costs exceed the 2026 budget.
1004	Full	Uisdean Nicholson	Nadir Impact	Exciting proposal but requires full assessment of piracy risk (off west Africa).

Six proposals were initially considered for implementation in 2026, as follows:

Proposal Number	Type	Lead Proponent	Short Title	Commentary
730	Full2 (Add)	Judson Partin	Sabine Bank	Uncertain of permitting requirements in Vanuatu waters, and whether a seafloor rock drill system is required. Proponents need to provide the complete seismic data set and this needs to be reviewed by the SEA Group.
857C	Full (Add2)	Claudia Bertoni	Messinian Evaporites	Geopolitically sensitive as involved drilling in Lebanese waters. Drilling on salt – Oil-based/heavy drilling mud needed because drilling in salt, requiring riser drilling. Only the Essential Plan could be implemented at the moment.
976	Full2 (Add3)	Hans Christian Larsen	Iceland Plateau	Proponents may need to revise their objectives based on the outcomes of IODP Expedition 395, and to consider revising the proponent team to take into account retirement of the PI.
1005	Full2	Peter Clift	Sunda Shelf	Potentially affordable within budget constraints. Some sites are too shallow for a geotechnical vessel, others too deep for a lift boat so needs further assessment. Also the potential to merge with Proposal 1007 needs to be explored further. SEA Group review needed.
1012	Full2	Andrew Newton	GLACE-NS North Sea	Appears to be the proposal with the least amount of risk. Fairly straightforward to implement, with lift boat required for shallow sites and geotechnical vessel for deeper sites.
1015	Full2	Christopher Lowery	Campeche Bank	Straightforward operationally but challenging volume of cores. Potential candidate for future joint implementation with NSF (close to North America, large number of US-based proponents).

Following these considerations, a consensus was reached that Proposal 1012 should be recommended for implementation by the ECORD Science Operator as the IODP[3] offshore expedition for 2026.

4. Next Meeting

The next IODP[3] iMSP-FB will be scheduled for May 2025 (date to be set).