



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS
IODP³ MSP FACILITY BOARD:
CO-CHAIR (JAPAN)

Deadline: 1 December 2025

Call for applications to serve as the Co-Chair (Japan) of the IODP³ MSP Facility Board

Introduction

In the International Ocean Drilling Programme (IODP³), the **MSP Facility Board** (MSP-FB) fulfils the critical function of making decisions on the most effective use of resources to plan the schedule of IODP³ expeditions for successive years of operations.

These expeditions include **offshore drilling/coring expeditions** using the D/V *Chikyu* or a variety of Mission-Specific Platforms (contracted on a case-by-case basis to suit scientific and operational needs) and a series of legacy-asset-based, large-scale projects known as **SPARCs**. The MSP-FB is charged with making crucial decisions on the selection of which proposals from the international scientific community will be implemented, placing this board at the very heart of IODP³. The decisions of the MSP-FB are informed by the evaluation of the science, sites, environmental protection and safety of proposals provided by the **Science Evaluation Panel** (SEP) and the **Safety and Environment Advisory Group** (SEA Group).

Within the MSP-FB, the Science Board plays a key role in decision-making and consists of leading scientists drawn from the international scientific ocean drilling communities. The composition of the MSP-FB Science Board is:

- the two MSP-FB Co-Chairs (one from Japan and one from ECORD)
- six members from Japan and ECORD as IODP³ Core Members
- up to four members from IODP³ Associate Members

We are now seeking applications from suitably qualified and experienced scientists from Japan to become the next Japan based Co-Chair of the MSP-FB.

Mandate of the MSP-FB

The main tasks of the MSP-FB are:

- to consider the viability of scientific ocean drilling proposals that have already been scientifically validated by the Science Evaluation Panel (SEP) and forwarded to the MSP-FB for potential implementation.
- to assess the relative merits of the available suite of scientific ocean drilling proposals forwarded to the MSP-FB, and of their respective alternative Essential, Intermediate, and Advanced drilling/coring plans, in relation to available budgets to maximise the scientific returns of implemented expeditions.
- to select scientific ocean drilling proposals and/or combinations and/or parts of proposals for implementation as expeditions by ESO, JAMSTEC or jointly by these entities, and to determine the longer-term operations schedule for scientific ocean drilling expeditions to maximise the delivery of high-priority science using available budgets.
- to review reports from the IODP³ Operators regarding the identification of potential IKCs that could provide a firm basis for the development of new low-cost scientific ocean drilling expeditions.
- to select SPARCs proposals for funding and implementation in each annual round from the accepted proposals forwarded by SEP, and to select associated SPARCs Co-Chief Scientists based on nominations provided by SEP. Funding and implementation of SPARCs may be linked to IODP³ MSP expeditions, especially in the context of the Flagship Initiatives of the **2050 Science Framework**.

- to select and appoint SEP Co-Chairs and SEA Group members from nomination proposals provided by Programme Member Offices (PMOs) following open calls for applicants from the IODP³ Core and Associated Members.

Eligibility to Apply

In this call, IODP³ is seeking applications from active leading scientists from **Japan only** to join the MSP-FB Science Board as its Co-Chair. The successful candidate will initially be appointed as Incoming Co-Chair, to serve alongside Prof. Nobukazu Seama (the current MSP-FB Co-Chair) from 1 January to 31 December 2026. They will then take over from Prof. Seama as MSP-FB Co-Chair from 1 January 2027 for a term of three years. Candidates must therefore be willing to join the MSP-FB for a total of 4-years.

The call is open to scientists with experience in **all research fields** relevant to scientific ocean drilling science. The MSP-FB convenes once annually in person to execute its mandate, but additional virtual meetings may be organised as appropriate. In-person meetings alternate between venues in Japan and ECORD member countries.

How to Apply

Applications from scientists **based in Japan** must be submitted to the IODP³ Science Office by the deadline of **Monday 1 December 2025** using the **IODP³ Gateway** system, accessed via the **Apply to Participate** link on the **IODP³ website**.

Information on the content required in applications to this call is available in the IODP³ **Guide for Applicants** (content listed under Panels and Boards).

Applications received by the deadline will be assessed and ranked by J-SSO, the IODP³ Programme Member Office for Japan. Their nomination for this position will then be recommended by the MSP-FB Co-Chairs for final approval by the IODP³ Executive Board.

- For enquiries about MSP-FB responsibilities and meetings, please contact:
Nobi Seama, MSP-FB Co-Chair, seama@kobe-u.ac.jp
Sasha Turchyn, MSP-FB Co-Chair, avt25@cam.ac.uk
- For enquiries about the application process and IODP³ Gateway, please contact:
Jodie Fisher, IODP³ Science Office, applications@iodp3.org