



**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FROM JAPAN SCIENTISTS**  
**IODP<sup>3</sup> MSP FACILITY BOARD**  
**SCIENCE BOARD**

**Deadline: 27 February 2026**

# Call for applications from Japan scientists to serve as a Member of the IODP<sup>3</sup> MSP Facility Board: Science Board

## Introduction

In the International Ocean Drilling Programme (IODP<sup>3</sup>), 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 IODP<sup>3</sup> 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 IODP<sup>3</sup>. 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 ECORD and one from Japan)
- six members from ECORD and Japan as IODP<sup>3</sup> Core Members
- up to four members from IODP<sup>3</sup> Associate Members

**We are now seeking applications from suitably qualified and experienced scientists from Japan join the MSP-FB Science Board.**

## 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 IODP<sup>3</sup> Operators regarding the identification of potential In Kind Contributions (IKC) 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 IODP<sup>3</sup> 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 IODP<sup>3</sup> Core and Associated Members.

## Eligibility to Apply

In this call, IODP<sup>3</sup> is seeking applications from active leading scientists from Japan, one of our **IODP<sup>3</sup> Member nations**, to join the MSP-FB Science Board for a three-year term. 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 will alternate between venues in ECORD member countries and Japan.

## How to Apply

Applications from scientists based in Japan must be submitted to the IODP<sup>3</sup> Science Office by the deadline of **Friday 27 February 2026** using the **IODP<sup>3</sup> Gateway** system, accessed via the **Apply to Participate** link on the **IODP<sup>3</sup> website**.

Information on the content required in applications to this call, however, is available in the IODP<sup>3</sup> **Guide for Applicants** (content listed under Panels and Boards).

Applications received by the deadline will be assessed and ranked by J-SSO, the IODP<sup>3</sup> Programme Member Office for Japan. Nomination proposals will then be recommended by the MSP-FB Co-Chairs for approval by the IODP<sup>3</sup> Executive Board.

- For enquiries about MSP-FB Science Board responsibilities and meetings, please contact:  
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- For enquiries about the application process and IODP<sup>3</sup> Gateway, please contact:  
Jodie Fisher, IODP<sup>3</sup> Science Office, [applications@iodp3.org](mailto:applications@iodp3.org)