



INTERNATIONAL OCEAN DRILLING PROGRAMME

IODP³ Science Evaluation Panel (SEP) Meeting

8-10 April 2026, Fukuoka, Japan

Roster

Science Subgroup:

Masataka Kinoshita (Co-Chair)	Earthquake Research Institute, The University of Tokyo, Japan
Gerald Auer	University of Graz, Austria
Marianne Conin	Université de Lorraine, France
Anna Joy Drury	University of Leicester, UK
Jörg Geldmacher	GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel, Germany
Yumiko Harigane	National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology, Japan
Michelle Harris	University of Plymouth, UK
Keiji Horikawa	University of Toyama, Japan
Tatsuhiko Hoshino	Kochi Institute for Core Sample Research, JAMSTEC, Japan
Matt Ikari	MARUM, Bremen, Germany
Taiki Katayama	Geological Survey of Japan, AIST, Japan
Ayumu Miyakawa	Geological Survey of Japan, AIST, Japan
Takashi Miyazaki	JAMSTEC, Japan
Yusuke Okazaki	Kyoto University, Japan
Alessio Sanfilippo	University of Pavia, Italy
Maria Seton	University of Sydney, Australia
Erika Tanaka	Kochi University, Japan
Mike Weber	University of Bonn, Germany
Hildegard Westphal	University of Bremen, Germany

Site Subgroup:

Tim Reston (Co-Chair)	University of Birmingham, UK
Kioka Arata	The University of Tokyo, Japan
Miho Asada	Geological Survey Japan, AIST
Laura De Santis	OGS Trieste, Italy
Wolfram Geissler	Alfred Wegener Institute, Germany
Stuart Henrys	GNS Science
Kan-His Hsiung	JAMSTEC, Japan
Gilles Lericolais	Ifremer, France
Fijii Masakazu	National Institute of Polar Research, Japan
Maria Filomena Loreto	ISMAR, Italy
Jonas Preine	University of Hamburg, Germany

Kazuya Shiraishi	JAMSTEC, Japan
Joanne Whittaker	University of Tasmania, Australia
Yuzuru Yamamoto	Kobe University, Japan
Hashimoto Yoshitaka	Kochi University, Japan

Operators:

Lena Maeda	MarE3, JAMSTEC, Japan
Natsumi Okutsu	MarE3, JAMSTEC, Japan
Erwan Le Ber	ECORD Science Operator
David McInroy	ECORD Science Operator
Marisa B. Rydzy	ECORD Science Operator

Liaisons and Observers:

Chiara Amadori	IODP ³ Science Office, Proposals and Meetings Manager
Nobu Eguchi	IODP ³ Science Office, Co-Director
Jodie Fisher	IODP ³ Science Office, Communications, Applications and EDI Manager
Katharina Hochmuth	University of Tasmania, Australia
Jun-Ichiro Ishibashi	J-DESC, Japan
Myriam Kars	IODP ³ Science Office, Publications Manager
Yusuke Kubo	Kochi Core Repository, Japan
Junichiro Kuroda	The University of Tokyo, Japan
Antony Morris	IODP ³ Science Office, Lead Director
Ulla Röhl	MARUM, Bremen, Germany
Sanny Saito	Director Chikyu Operation
Nobi Seama	Kobe University, Japan
Gabi Uenzelmann-Neben	Alfred Wegener Institute, Germany
Ayumi Yoshimatsu	J-DESC, Japan
Tadashi Yoshizawa	J-DESC, Japan

Minutes

1. Welcome and Logistics

The Science Evaluation Panel (SEP) Co-Chairs Tim Reston and Masa Kinoshita called the meeting to order with a welcome and asked attendees to perform self-introductions. They requested acceptance of the Agenda, and reminded those in attendance of the requirement to keep proposal content and discussions confidential.

2. Reporting

- **Science Office update:** Antony Morris (Lead Director, IODP³ Science Office) updated SEP on plans to implement proposal evaluation within the IODP³ Gateway system, to allow all records related to IODP³ proposals to be linked and accessible in one system. Implementation is currently in the development phase at Maas Software Engineering and the new system should be ready for use for the first time in the evaluation of proposals submitted to the 1 July 2026 deadline. He encouraged all SEP members to register for a Gateway account if they have not already done so in preparation for this. He then reminded SEP members that the success of the SPARC initiative depends on generating proposal pressure to give the MSP-FB a wide choice of science for potential implementation. SEP members were therefore encouraged to use their

research networks to promote awareness of SPARCs, including highlighting the rapid timescale of proposal evaluation and decision-making and the opportunities the initiative provides for early career researchers to gain experience of leading major international, interdisciplinary research projects. He emphasised the independence of SEP and the critical role it plays in IODP³. Finally, he reminded SEP members of the different approach needed in evaluating SPARC proposals compared to offshore drilling proposals.

- MSP-FB update:** Nobu Seama (MSP-FB Co-Chair) presented the status of the Science Board members of the MSP-FB, showing incoming Co-Chair and member rotation. He then presented the 16 proposals that exist at the MSP-FB, two of which were recommended for implementation. He also outlined the discussions held at the MSP-FB Zoom meeting in March. At this meeting, following the late-stage withdrawal of the sole bidder for platform provider for IODP³ Expedition 507 in 2026, the MSP-FB requested ESO to reschedule the expedition for implementation in April/May 2027 and to open a new tendering call aimed at securing a platform provider as soon as possible. Furthermore, IODP³ Proposal P1004-Full “Nadir Impact Crater”, originally intended for implementation in 2027, should now be rescheduled to start in January 2028. The MSP-FB also encouraged efforts by members of the US scientific ocean drilling community to secure NSF funding for potential implementation of P1004 as a joint IODP³-NSF expedition. Finally, the status of the ongoing SPARC expeditions was presented.
- SEA Group update:** Katharina Hochmuth (SEA Group Chair) updated SEP on the new SEA Group guidelines established since their last meeting. The SEA Group aims to provide earlier feedback during the proposal review process to support proponents in ensuring safe and environmentally conscious drilling conditions. The results of these early reviews were discussed during the specific proposals discussion. There has been little turnover in the SEA Group’s personnel in recent years, so the SEP was encouraged to suggest potential members from their networks.

3. Proposal Reviews

Over the three-day meeting, the SEP reviewed 12 proposals that were resubmitted to IODP³. These consisted of: (i) three Full offshore proposals; (ii) three Preliminary offshore proposals; (iii) three Land-To-Sea proposals, and (iv) three SPARC proposals.

The review outcomes are in the table below.

Proposal Number	Type	Lead Proponent	Title	Recommendation
1101	L2S Workshop	Michael Riedel	Permafrost and cryosphere gas hydrates (THAW)	Workshop
1107	Full	Tianhaozhe Sun	Northern Cascadia Borehole Observatories	Waiting Room
1109	Full	Yuki Morono	Go Beyond the Limit (GBL) drilling	Revise to Full2
1111	Preliminary	Uwe Balthasar	Microbes and Organic carbon in carbonate sediments (TIMOR)	Proceed to Full

Proposal Number	Type	Lead Proponent	Title	Recommendation
1112-S	SPARC	Thomas Chalk	Going Beyond 'Beyond EPICA'	Decline
1113	Preliminary	Michelle Harris	Zero age drilling of the ocean crust	Proceed to Full
1114	Full	Ann Dulnea	Rhythms of Volcanic Ash in Mexico and Central American Volcanic Arcs	Revise to Full2
1115	L2S Preliminary	Alexandre Francke	Indo-Australian Monsoon and Palaeo-groundwater recharge (CAMP)	Decline
1116	L2S Preliminary	Llmo Kukkonen	Nature of the crust beneath Iceland (Iceland L2S)	Decline
1117-S	SPARC	Valentine Basch	Chemical and energy exchanges between the mantle, magma and seawater	Endorse
1118-S	SPARC	Clifford Patten	MEtal and Sulfur fluxes during Margin Evolution (MESMERIC)	Endorse
1119-Pre	Preliminary	Stephen Jones	DENGATE: Reconstructing flow through Denmark Strait oceanic gateway	Revise to Pre2

4. Next Meeting

The next IODP³ SEP will be scheduled as an online meeting in September 2026.