

## **2014 InterRidge Update for SCOR**

The InterRidge (IR) programme office is now in its second year at Peking University, Beijing, China. It is led by: John Chen (IR Chair, marine geophysics) and Jiabiao Li (IR Co-Chair, marine Geology). The Office Co-ordinator is Zengxi Ge, whose background is Geophysics.

Individual IR membership is ~2800. The bi-weekly "interridge-mail" e-news is received by ~1300 IR members and ~180 members obtain job postings by subscribing to the interridge-classifieds mailing list.

InterRidge (<http://www.interridge.org>) promotes interdisciplinary, international studies of oceanic spreading centres by creating a global research community, planning and coordinating new science programmes that no single nation can achieve alone, exchanging scientific information, and sharing new technologies and facilities. InterRidge is also dedicated to reaching out to the public, scientists and governments, and to providing a unified voice for ocean ridge researchers worldwide. An increasing role for InterRidge is our involvement in compiling information and advice for policy makers. This includes meetings and workshops where protocols for codes of scientific conduct for studying chemosynthetic environments, and identifying sites of special scientific interest, are proposed and discussed. InterRidge also has formal links with the United Nations Environment Programme and informal links with the Integrated Ocean Drilling program and the International Seabed Authority.

Working Groups are the principal mechanism for achieving the InterRidge programme, their main function being to identify new areas of high priority scientific research. Each Working Group has clear goals and a timescale in which to achieve them (approx. 5 years). InterRidge supports those scientific projects which would benefit from IR coordination by convening group meetings, community-wide workshops, symposia and theoretical institutes. The resulting reports represent a synthesis of international and interdisciplinary efforts to define scientific questions and a methodology of addressing them. There are currently seven active IR Working Groups in 2014.

### **InterRidge co-sponsoring SCOR WG 135: *Hydrothermal energy and ocean carbon cycles***

*(Contact: Nadine Le Bris, France, and Chris German, USA).*

The Working Group has organized its third meeting in Vienna, Austria, in the context of the European Geosciences Union General Assembly 2014. The WG meeting was held on April 28th, with the primary aim of discussing the review papers that are proposed as deliverables in the WG terms of references.

### **InterRidge co-sponsored VentBase workshop, held at the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) on the 2-4th April 2014.**

VentBase was established in 2012 as a forum where academic, commercial, governmental, and non-governmental stakeholders can develop a consensus regarding the management of exploitation in the deep-sea, specifically the mining of seafloor massive sulfide (SMS) deposits. InterRidge provide bursaries for two students to attend the workshop.

### **The InterRidge Vents database has update to a Version 3.2.**

In Version 3 the InterRidge Vents Database has joined the semantic web of Linked Data. We migrated the database to Drupal 7, still an open source content management system

and now with Resource Description Framework (RDF) web services in its core. We implemented additional contributed modules for query over the web using the SPARQL standard. Most database content and taxonomy terms are currently mapped to default RDF namespaces, with three important exceptions: we mapped the “vent field” content type to (1) an rdf:type for hydrothermal vents in a semantic knowledge base (<http://yago-knowledge.org/resource/>) and (2) to an rdf:type for geographical features from the Open Geospatial Consortium (<http://www.opengis.net/rdf#>), and (3) we mapped the latitude and longitude positions of the vent fields to a semantic vocabulary for the WGS84 geodetic reference datum ([http://www.w3.org/2003/01/geo/wgs84\\_pos#](http://www.w3.org/2003/01/geo/wgs84_pos#)). Another new feature in Version 3 is live Google mapping of vent field positions. The new version can be found at <http://vents-data.interridge.org/>

### **Other InterRidge Office activities in 2014**

In 2014 we plan to award 5 Fellowship to early-career scientists. All Fellowships are designed to encourage international collaboration on any aspect of ridge-crest science.

InterRidge continued its new Cruise Travel Bursary scheme. This has enabled two early-career scientists to make new collaborations with established scientists, with InterRidge paying their travel and hotel costs. Details at: <http://www.interridge.org/bursary/list>

For more information about IR's activities and national updates, please visit the IR website (<http://www.interridge.org>) and recent newsletters (<http://www.interridge.org/IRNewsletter>), or contact the IR Office ([coordinator@interridge.org](mailto:coordinator@interridge.org)) for a hard copy of the 2014 InterRidge News, which will be published in the end of 2014.