

Third SCOR Meeting on Coordination of International Marine Research Projects
Request for Background Information (http://www.scor-int.org/Project_Summit_3/PC3-Background.dwt)

Response from the InterRidge Program Office

Coordinator: Stace Beaulieu (coordinator@interridge.org), 18-Feb-2009

Data Management/Publication Discussion

1. Please present the status of your project in terms of management of data and/or metadata.

The InterRidge Program Office currently maintains three databases: a member database, a research cruise database, and the InterRidge Global Hydrothermal Vents Database. The member database (<http://www.interridge.org/members>) contains contact information and other metadata such as research specialties and service to InterRidge for the >2500 individual members. The research cruise database (<http://www.interridge.org/IRcruise>) displays metadata from >500 ridge-related research cruises dating back to the 1980's, including cruise name, dates, general location, chief scientist, and URL links to cruise reports. The InterRidge Global Hydrothermal Vents Database is a comprehensive database of the locations, depths, and discovery dates of the approximately 200 confirmed hydrothermal vent fields in the global ocean. The Vents Database is being prepared for publication in 2009. It is currently available by request to the IR Office.

2. Is your project keeping track of project cruises and collecting any information about the cruises?

Yes, cruises that have already occurred are regularly added to the cruise database (as above). We also publish, once per year in our annual Newsletter, a list of upcoming research cruises (available for download here: <http://www.interridge.org/cruise>).

3. Are your project cruises included in the POGO research cruise database (see <http://www.pogo-oceancruises.org/cruises/>)?

We were not aware of the POGO Ocean Cruises database. We would be happy to work with your database manager to include our cruise listings in the POGO database.

4. Has your project discussed and/or encouraged data publication?

In terms of InterRidge Office activities, we are planning to publish the Vents Database in 2009 as mentioned above. InterRidge also publishes cruise reports and articles of interest to ridge-crest scientists in our annual Newsletter, as well as publishes bi-weekly e-news that include highlights of recent cruises. We especially encourage and seek out contributions that emphasize international collaborations.

Education and Capacity Building

1. What activities, plans, and ideas does your project have in relation to education and capacity building?

InterRidge initiated a Student Fellowship Program in 2008. For 2009 - 2011, we expanded the program with a partnership with the International Seabed Authority (ISA).

Please find details for the InterRidge Student and Postdoctoral Fellowship Program at: <http://www.interridge.org/fellowship>. As part of InterRidge's mission to promote international, collaborative, and interdisciplinary studies of oceanic spreading centers, we invite proposals for InterRidge Student and Postdoctoral Fellowships of up to \$5000 US each. These new Fellowships are designed to encourage international collaboration on any aspect of ridge-crest science by graduate students or postdoctoral researchers, fostering long-standing partnerships for their future careers. We expect to offer a total of three Fellowships in 2009. One of the Fellowships, funded by InterRidge, is open to a graduate student or postdoc from any nation. The remaining two Fellowships are funded by the ISA Endowment Fund, with the requirement that the graduate student or postdoc is either from a developing country or will assist in training those of a developing country. The ISA Endowment Fund is a new program for collaborative marine scientific research, with details and brochure available at: <http://www.isa.org.jm/en/efund/>.

2. How are you funding your education and capacity-building activities?

Our funding for the above fellowships is through InterRidge, which obtains membership fees from Principal and Associate Member nations, and the ISA Endowment Fund.

3. Are you, or would you like to, work with other projects on education and capacity-building activities?

We are interested in promoting our fellowship program broadly to increase the participation of young scientists, for example, from countries that are not yet members in InterRidge.

4. Would you be interested in jointly supporting a Web site that could be used to Webcast project events?

InterRidge already has a very active website (<http://www.interridge.org/>); however, we would be happy to contribute materials to the SCOR website.

Projects and Ocean Observations

1. Is your project cooperating with any existing time-series sites and/or establishing new ones?

One of the current InterRidge Working Groups, the Monitoring and Observatories Working Group, devotes special attention to the planning and coordination of scientific activities in the "MoMAR" area of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. There are numerous on-going and upcoming integrated studies and monitoring efforts at MoMAR, and specifically at the Lucky Strike hydrothermal vent field, including a test observatory site at Lucky Strike in 2010 (MoMARSAT project, France). The Working Group is involved with coordinating the sharing of data and information, and to the development of a data policy for activities at this site.

2. Is your project cooperating with the Global Ocean Observing System?

At this time, InterRidge does not have any association with GOOS.

3. *Will your project potentially contribute to global assessments, such as next IPCC, the next Millennium Assessment, or the Global Marine Assessment?*

InterRidge potentially could contribute to the Global Marine Assessment, and in particular with regard to:

“Assessment of deep-sea and open-ocean conditions (e.g., biodiversity, productivity) integrated across all oceans.”

Project Publicity/Visibility

1. *What does your project do in terms of publicizing itself to the scientific community and the public?*

InterRidge’s mission includes “reaching out to the public, scientists and governments, and to providing a unified voice for ocean ridge researchers worldwide.” We have a page for Education and Outreach on our website: <http://www.interridge.org/EO>.

A major outreach effort in 2007 was InterRidge’s special issue of Oceanography Magazine (Vol. 20, No. 1):

http://www.tos.org/oceanography/issues/issue_archive/20_1.html.

Outreach in 2008 included:

- the MATE International Student ROV Competition, held in San Diego, CA, USA, in June 2008 (http://www.marinetech.org/rov_competition/2008/index.php), and

- the Qingdao Ocean Sciences Summer School, held in Qingdao, China, in July 2008.

The latest outreach includes a contribution to the "Creatures of the Abyss" exhibit at Science North, Canada, to open in May 2009.

2. *What visibility do you gain from your project's publicity efforts?*

The fact that two public museums (Science North, mentioned above, and the Museon, in The Netherlands) have contacted InterRidge in the past year for contributions to exhibits, suggests that we are getting the word out to the public that we represent a resource of information on deep-sea ridges and hydrothermal vent habitats.

3. *Are you, or would you like to, work with other projects on publicity and visibility?*

Currently, InterRidge does not have an Education and Outreach Coordinator. Thus, it would be beneficial for our Office Coordinator to work with SCOR on publicity and visibility.

Modelling

1. *Is modelling a component of your project?*

InterRidge does not yet have a formal working group on modeling, but modeling approaches are an important integrated part of our research in the investigation of ridge-crest geological, hydrothermal, and biological processes.

2. *If so, how are modelling, research, and data management linked?*

3. *Would there be benefit in any cross-project modelling activities or agreements?*

Interactions with Intergovernmental Organizations

1. Do you regularly cooperate with any intergovernmental organizations (e.g., IOC, PICES, ICES, etc.)?

Since the early 1990's at the inception of the InterRidge program, the InterRidge Steering Committee has discussed implementing a more formal connection to the IODP program (and, previously, the ODP program). InterRidge now has a liaison to the IODP program. Dr. Benoit Ildefonse, Chair of the InterRidge Working Group for Deep Earth Sampling, will be attending the IODP Science Planning Committee meeting in March 2009.

2. If so, what have been the benefits of such cooperation, as well as the costs?

At this point, the costs are very minor – simply travel costs for one individual to attend an upcoming meeting. We are hoping that by strengthening the communication and links between InterRidge and IODP that ridge-related projects will remain at the forefront of international ocean drilling research.

Use of Conference Manager System (SCOR leases this system for use by its projects)

1. Do you use the Conference Manager system to manage your events, and if so, what are its benefits?

No.

2. What would you like to change about Conference Manager?