IODP Environmental Principles

As a community conducting research of the ocean floor, we recognize that we all carry a responsibility to ensure that our activities have a negligible environmental impact. We therefore are determined to conform to the highest accepted levels of environmental sensitivity: All members of the IODP ocean science community will familiarize themselves with the principles outlined below and will ensure that they are adhered to by project personnel. These principles will enhance awareness of environmental issues in members of the community and, as such, will constitute a basis for IODP's expectations of scientific staff, particularly those participating in drilling operations. These principles define the standards that IODP operational organizations and contractors are committed to adhere to fully.

The implementing organizations (JA, CDEX and ESO) and their operational contractors are fully responsible and accountable for drilling and related activities to their funding organizations, the NSF, MEXT and ECORD, as well as to the international public.

Protection of marine life and the environment

- IODP will minimize the release of substances into the marine environment that could harm marine organisms.
- When operating, IODP seismic data will be collected according to the latest guidelines for seismic operations to minimize impact on marine mammals.
- The operators will obtain all necessary permits.
- A review of hazards to the environment will be conducted by IODP's Pollution Prevention and Safety Panel and by the contracted operators for all drilling operations to determine the associated risk level.
- IODP will act to minimize any and all environmental risks identified through appropriate control measures.

Disposal of waste materials and restitution of the environment

- When operating within national jurisdictions IODP will follow host country requirements for the handling of drilling by-products.
- All other materials will be disposed of in accordance with applicable environmental legislation, standards, guidelines and codes.

Storage and curation of potentially harmful substances/organisms

- Samples will be transported and stored in such a way as to prevent contamination of the environment.

Keeping the public informed of our activities

- We will inform the public of our operational plans.