

**Forum Consensus Item 17-01:** The Forum approves the agenda for its fourth meeting in Shanghai, China.

**Forum Consensus Item 17-02:** The Forum, after receiving the results of reviews commissioned by both the ANZIC and ECORD consortia in service of their respective renewals for ongoing participation in IODP, acknowledges the continuing need to foster the “Biosphere Frontiers” theme of the decadal Science Plan. The Forum supports a workshop-based approach to: 1.) identify new/broader components of the international scientific community to develop “Biosphere Frontier” drilling proposals and 2.) build that biosphere theme more strongly into the current flow of IODP proposals.

**Forum Consensus Item 17-03:** One of the Forum’s primary responsibilities is to be a custodian of progress of IODP towards fulfillment of its decadal Science Plan. Since the inception of the Forum, its Chair (in concert with the Science Support Office) has maintained a progress report on pre-(drilling) expedition assessments (by proponents, primarily) of that progress. While results of those assessments foster optimism that progress is being made across all of the Science Plan’s themes and component challenges, post-expedition assessments have not been systematic, but are equally

important for the health of scientific ocean drilling. That task will be undertaken for *JOIDES Resolution* expeditions during the first phase (2013-2017) of IODP by the JRAW (“Assessment of the *JOIDES Resolution* in Meeting the Challenges of the IODP Science Plan”) workshop, to be held in late September 2017. The Forum looks forward to the JRAW report, and urges similar assessment efforts by other IODP platform providers/component drilling communities.

**Forum Consensus Item 17-04:** Taking into account the generally acknowledged validity of IODP’s current decadal Science Plan for the next ~5-year phase of scientific ocean drilling, and after extensive discussion following a forward-thinking presentation by a representative from China, the Forum endorses a long-term (multi-year), workshop-based approach to assess the technologies needed to reach the full potential of that Science Plan. Those workshops, to be held beginning in ~2019, should incorporate: 1.) the diverse challenges inherent in a multiple (drilling) platform approach to addressing the Science Plan, 2,) the importance of inclusion of both member and non-member scientific communities, as well as industry, in order to build scientific ocean drilling’s constituency, and 3.) interest expressed by China and other IODP members and consortia to lead this effort. Ideally, this initiative

should be progressed in parallel with any and all (new and ongoing) planning efforts designed to keep IODP as presently constituted alive and well.

**Forum Consensus Item 17-05:** The Forum applauds the initiative expressed by the group pursuing a commemorative volume in the journal *Oceanography* entitled “Scientific Ocean Drilling: Looking to the Future”. This publication will form both a commemoration and a celebration of 50 years of scientific ocean drilling; the volume is expected to be published in time for the anniversary, ~December 2018. The Forum sees this activity as emblematic of a range of activities which could and should be pursued, both to honor this milestone and to support the productive continuation of IODP beyond 2018.

**Forum Consensus Item 17-06:** The Forum is encouraged by activities in support of its *Consensus 16-06* over the past year in support of both publicizing and supporting the crucial relationship between seismic imaging/drill-site characterization and scientific ocean drilling, across all platforms. However, the risk of a reduction in seismic imaging capabilities internationally remains. The Forum notes that the efficiency of *JOIDES Resolution* (JR) operations within this phase of IODP has been improved by multi-year regional planning; recently, the primary

seismic imaging asset of the U.S. has been operated productively in a similar way. The Forum suggests and supports development of a planning effort linking seismic imaging and drilling, through workshops, with emphasis on likely future areas of anticipated IODP operations. The primary goal is to support seismic imaging efforts in support of and *en route* to development of competitive proposals to drill all accessible parts of the global ocean system, during the next phase of IODP.

**Forum Consensus Item 17-07:** The Forum receives multiple reports from IODP member countries and consortia concerning “education [E] and outreach [O]” activities in support of scientific ocean drilling. Those activities are diverse and in many instances inspiring. However, at the same time, they are generally underfunded and dispersed, which is accentuated by both inherent cultural and language differences across the IODP membership. Education activities generally focus on development of curricula, whereas outreach activities broadly target the general public. A recent ECORD program review suggests a renewed emphasis on outreach efforts. The Forum encourages these outreach efforts, particularly those that can be generalized across the IODP to enhance efficiencies. A long-term objective is increased decoupling of “E” vs. “O” activities, with

emphasis on those IODP efforts that lead to measurable impacts.

**Forum Consensus Item 17-08:** The Forum enthusiastically thanks the IODP-China Office, and all of the individuals supporting its fourth meeting at Tongji University, Shanghai. We are especially grateful to our colleague Shouting Tuo of the IODP-China Office, who has been wonderful in his role as our personal host. The IODP Forum is also grateful for the prominent role China is playing now and will continue to play in scientific ocean drilling.

**Forum Consensus Item 17-09:** The Forum enthusiastically accepts the invitation from our Indian colleague Brijesh Bansal to hold the next meeting of the Forum (#5) in Goa in September 2018 (exact dates to be determined). Japan has offered to host the Forum #6 meeting in Osaka in September 2019. The Forum greets that invitation with equal enthusiasm.