

## **Proposed Interim Science Advisory Structure (iSAS)**

### **for the Transition to IODP**

#### **- interim Science Steering and Evaluation Panels (iSSEPs) -**

#### **The Interim Science Advisory Structure for the IODP**

The interim Science Advisory Structure (iSAS) is a joint working group representing JOIDES and the OD21 Science Advisory Committee. The functions of iSAS are: 1) to plan for the Integrated Ocean Drilling Program (IODP); 2) to facilitate the transition from the Ocean Drilling Program (ODP) into the IODP; 3) to make recommendations on the science advisory structure for IODP; 4) to develop guidelines related to evaluations of science proposals, site surveys and form of drilling proposals submitted to IODP; and 5) to examine, review and nurture potential drilling proposals for IODP. Final recommendations for the scientific drilling program of IODP will be developed once IODP begins in 2003.

The iSAS committees, working groups, and panels will report and direct their advice through the interim Planning Committee (iPC) to the International Working Group (IWG) of IODP. Representation on most iSAS panels and committees will be proportional to the optimal international participation in IODP (1/3 Japan, 1/3 United States, 1/3 other IWG members) and will be restricted to IWG members seeking full IODP participation. Members of iSAS committees and panels will be nominated by JOIDES and the OD21 Science Advisory Committee. To the extent possible, it is expected that JOIDES nominations will be consistent with the membership on corresponding JOIDES panels and committees. JOIDES and the OD21 Advisory Committee will confer and consider appropriate disciplinary balance and expertise in making their nominations to IWG. The term of membership on iSAS panels and committees will be until 1 October 2003 (unless replaced before that time by the IWG member nations they represent). The iSAS is open to suggestions and proposals from the entire scientific community, and its plans will be open to continued review and discussion.

#### **1. Interim Science Steering and Evaluation Panels**

**1.1 General Purpose:** The Interim Science Steering and Evaluation Panels (iSSEPs) interact with proponents (and interim Program Planning Groups, as necessary) during the ODP-IODP transition (2001-2003), in order to nurture submitted drilling proposals to maturity, make an initial assessment (in cooperation with the iPC) about the suitability of proposals for a particular drilling platform or technology, and recommend mature proposals for external comment.

• Environmental Change, Processes and Effects iSSEP: Areas of Interest

The interests of this iSSEP are explained in detail in the Initial Science Plan

of IODP. Within the context of this plan, important thematic areas of investigation addressed by proposals that will be considered by this panel include:

- internal and external forcing of environmental change
- environmental change induced by internal and external processes
- extreme climates and rapid climate change initiatives
- the deep biosphere and the sub-seafloor ocean
- gas hydrates

• Solid Earth Cycles and Geodynamics iSSEP: Areas of Interest

The interests of this iSSEP are explained in detail in the Initial Science Plan of IODP. Within the context of this plan, important thematic areas of investigation addressed by proposals that will be considered by this panel include:

- formation of rifted continental margins, oceanic LIPs and oceanic lithosphere
- the dynamics, processes, and record of the solid Earth and fluid movement therein.
- recycling of oceanic lithosphere and formation of crust
- the seismogenic zone
- the deep biosphere and the sub-seafloor ocean

**1.2 Mandate.** Each iSSEP reports to the iPC and will respond directly to requests from the iPC. Each iSSEP will be responsible for:

- examining and reviewing drilling proposals and determining whether they address important scientific problems that are related to the scientific themes outlined in the Initial Science Plan of IODP.
- nurturing to maturity, and examining and reviewing the scientific merits of these drilling proposals, by interaction with proponents and Program Planning Groups (as necessary) ;
- providing proponents, and iPC with written reviews and comments on the proposals through the iSAS Support Office;
- selecting proposals for external comment, suggesting appropriate reviewers, and providing iPC with external comments and a written review and summary of those comments;
- advising iPC on initiatives and themes that need further development (through the formation of interim Program Planning Groups, as necessary);
- facilitating communications among iPC, interim Program Planning Groups, and proponents.

**1.3 Meetings.** The iSSEPs will meet approximately twice per year, normally right before or after their counterparts in JOIDES. The iSSEPs will have overlapping sessions, as overlap in thematic coverage is expected to continue to evolve. The iPC Co-Chairs will approve iSSEP agendas and meeting dates, and locations (normally in consultation with JOIDES).

**1.4 Membership.** The iSSEPs will consist of approximately fifteen to eighteen

members each. The iPC, in consultation with JOIDES and OD21 Science Advisory Committee, will advise on membership replacement (if vacancies occur), based upon maintaining scientific balance and breadth of expertise. Members of the iSSEPs will not be members of any interim Program Planning Group. With the approval of the iPC Co-Chairs, guests may be invited to iSSEPs meetings on an *ad hoc* basis to help with examinations and reviews of proposals.

**1.5 Liaisons.** The Chairs of the iSSEPs are liaisons to the iPC and will meet with the iPC. The iSSEPs chairs will assign liaisons from their membership to the active iPPGs, as appropriate. The iPPG Chairs will normally meet with the iSSEPs at least once per year.

**1.6 Chairs** The iSSEP Chairs are appointed by iPC.

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