

ION activities since the Perugia IUGG in July 2007:

" International Ocean Networks (ION, <http://msg.who.edu/ION>) held their annual breakfast meeting at the Fall AGU on December 12, 2007. Progress reports were presented by the various attendees as follows (with updates in square brackets):

Ralph Stephen – Ralph became the ION Chair officially in July 2007 through an email process. This was his first meeting as Chair. We were working on getting the ION web site organized and in resolving confusion in the links with Berkeley and Oregon.

- ION had co-sponsored with IASPEI a Special Session on “Underwater Observatories” (JSS016) at the 2007 IUGG meeting in Perugia (July 2-13, 2007). This was a great success. ION is also co-sponsoring two proposed sessions at the 2009 IASPEI meeting in Cape Town (January 10-16, 2009): “Extending land networks into the sea and oceans” and “Re-using ODP boreholes and submarine cables”.
- ION had also co-sponsored a workshop in Tokyo on borehole observatories for NanTroSEIZE (November 28-29, 2007).
- The April/June 2006 Issue of Annals of Geophysics, a Special Issue dedicated to Giuseppe Smriglio, entitled “From Land Networks to Seafloor Observatories” contained many interesting papers by ION members and others on international seafloor observatory programs.
- the ION proposal to IODP-MI (631-Pre) is still active. [This proposal was deactivated in February 2008.]
- A proposal has been submitted to US-NSF for a workshop to discuss joint science goals between NSF Earth and Ocean Science divisions. [This proposal was withdrawn in May 2008.]

Keir Becker – IODP-MI faces reduced drilling time on both platforms, the JOIDES Resolution and the Chikyu. Funding constraints are also making it tough for observatory efforts at the Juan de Fuca CORKs and on NanTroSEIZE. Microbiology observatories are being planned for the mid-Atlantic Ridge (395A and a new hole) and in the Mariana forearc.

Fred Duennebier – The relaying of the (Hawaii-4) seafloor communications cable to station ALOHA (about 60km long) was a success. There is 96KHz telemetry on two channels. A hydrophone has been installed with a bandwidth down to 100Hz. It would be good if someone would champion the installation of a broadband seismometer at Aloha.

Adam Dziewonski – Expressed his disappointment that US seafloor observatory efforts were not proceeding more quickly.

Barbara Romanowicz – The MOBB has been installed for a five year deployment. It will be hooked-up to the MARS cable in Spring '08. There is a back-up battery operated system to acquire data when the cable is not attached or is not working.

Jean Paul Montagner - Planning for an observatory at NERO (the Ninety-East Ridge in the Indian Ocean) have been postponed indefinitely. The ANTARES project is working well with two seismometers. Roland Person is active in the ESONET program.

Rhett Butler – A policy has been established for OBSIP to release the data from at least one OBS immediately after recovery to the IRIS DMS for all of their experiments.

ION members were active in an IFREE, ERI, DONET sponsored workshop in Japan in March 2008 focusing on seafloor observation networks. One of the main recommendations to come out of this workshop was to set up an international committee [like ION] to coordinate current programs in East Asia, Europe and USA.

ION members were also active in the US sponsored Long Range Science Plan for Seismology Workshop that was held in Denver in September 2008 (<http://www.iris.edu/hq/lrsps/>). The draft workshop report, which contains a number of ideas and projects of interest to ION, is available on the web site.

The next ION breakfast will be held at the 2008 Fall AGU in San Francisco on December 17. "

Ralph Stephen
December 2008