



InterRidge

Steering Committee Meeting Report, 2005

Kiel, Germany
11 – 12 April 2005

Chair
Colin Devey

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Absent Steering Committee Members:

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Sang-Mook Lee (Korea)

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Meeting Agenda

1	Introduction and welcome	P. Herzig, C. Devey
2	General organization of meeting	K. Freitag
	Agreement on meeting agenda	C. Devey
3	Accept the minutes of 2004 meeting	C. Devey
4	IR steering committee issues	
a	Confirmation of 2004 steering committee members	K. Freitag
b	Update of IR membership rules	K. Freitag
c	Involvement of/support for young scientists	K. Freitag
	InterRidge charity fund and alternatives	C. Devey / K. Freitag
	Bid for IR office 2007-2010	C. Devey
d	Next steering committee meeting – when and where	C. Devey
5	IR Budget	
a	IR budget 2004	K. Freitag
b	List of billed nations	K. Freitag
6	National updates	
a	Germany - DeRidge	C. Devey
b	France - InterRidge France	J. Dymont
c	USA - Ridge 2000	C. Fisher
d	UK	T. Henstock
e	InterRidge Japan	N. Seama
f	CanRidge	S. Scott
g	InterRidge China	J. Chen
h	Norway	R. Pedersen
i	Korea	S-M. Lee (submitted)
j	New Zealand	I. Wright (submitted)
k	Switzerland	G. Frueh-Green (submitted)
	Summary discussion	C. Devey
7	Working groups	
a	Biogeochemical interactions at deep sea vents	N. le Bris
b	Mid-ocean ridge ecosystems	F. Gaill
c	Hotspot-ridge interactions	J. Dymont
d	Ultraslow spreading ridges	J. Snow
e	Deep earth sampling	B. Ildefonse
f	Monitoring and observatories	J. Escartin
g	Back-arc basins	S-M. Lee
h	Update and discussion	K. Freitag
8	General topics of interest	
a	Status of RussiaRidge	C. Devey
	Feedback on ISA meeting (Jamaica)	C. Devey
b	“Code of conduct” for research at hydrothermal vents, discussion of WWF proposal	C. Fisher/ C. Devey/F. Gaill
9	Workshops and meetings FEEDBACK	
a	SCOR meeting, Sept 2004	C. Devey/K. Freitag
b	India meeting, Jan 2005	K.A.Kamesh Raju/K. Freitag
d	MOMAR workshop April 2005 (IR-R2K)	All who were present
10	Workshops and meetings NEW	
a	(R2K)-IR Theoretical Institute ‘Biogeochemical interactions at deep sea vents’ end of 2006	N. le Bris
b	Russia Ridge proposal to host 2006 steering committee meeting	K. Freitag
c	Brazil workshop 2007 – proposal	S. E. Sichel
11	Workshops and meetings UPDATES	

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	Cyprus Field School, May 2005 Arctic Ridges, Italy, Feb/March 2006 - proposal	K. Freitag J. Snow
12	IR News and website	K. Freitag
a	Modified look to IR News	
b	IR flier	
c	New website – general and specific additions	
13	InterRidge databases Membership database – changes, extracted information, IR email distribution list Proposal for funding contribution from IR to ChEss for biology database merge Potential strategies for scientific database hosting	K. Freitag
14	InterRidge Education and Outreach – update (e.g. applications for grants to fund this, strategies etc.)	K. Kusek
15	Review 2004 action list	K. Freitag
16	Last minute issues	
17	Actions for 2005	
	Finish meeting	

1. Introduction and welcome

The InterRidge Chair, C Devey, welcomed the steering committee members and working group chairs to the meeting. The director of the Leibniz Institute of Marine Sciences (IFM-GEOMAR), Professor P. Herzig, then thanked all members for coming to Kiel for the steering committee meeting and gave a presentation on IFM-GEOMAR.

As there were numerous new steering committee members, everyone introduced him- or herself before continuing with the meeting.

2. General organization of meeting and agreement on meeting agenda

A meeting agenda draft was emailed to the steering committee prior to this meeting with a request for additions or changes. Feedback was incorporated in the final agenda. The meeting accepted the agenda as circulated in the final form.

3. Acceptance of 2004 meeting minutes

The minutes of the 2004 steering committee meeting were circulated electronically to all steering committee members prior to the meeting. The following changes were requested at the meeting by C Fisher:

8.2. "Code of conduct" for research at hydrothermal vents, page 15, remove last paragraph
9.2 India meeting, Jan 2005, page 16 update the scientific organizing committee fo the Indian Ridge meeting

14. Last minute issues, page 20 take out "strong" in "strong ties" with SOPAC.

These changes have been incorporated and a revised PDF is posted on the website.

Apart from these changes, the minutes were accepted unanimously.

4. IR steering committee issues

4.1 Confirmation of 2005 steering committee

The list of members was discussed to confirm the 2005 steering committee. There were 5 new steering committee members in 2005, all attended this meeting.

2005 STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Germany – Prof. Colin Devey (Chair), Dr. Nicole Dubilier (became second member)

France – Dr. Jerome Dymont, Dr. Francoise Gaill

USA – Dr. Charles Fisher, Dr. Donna Blackman (replaced Dr. Deborah Smith)

Japan – Dr. Nobukazu Seama (replaced Prof. Toshitaka Gamo), a second steering committee member will be selected

UK – Prof. Paul Dando, Dr. Timothy Henstock (replaced Dr. Damon Teagle)

Korea – Dr. Sang-Mook Lee

Canada – Prof. Steve Scott

India – Dr. K. A. Kamesh Raju (replaced Dr. Abhay Mudholkar)

Norway – Prof. Rolf Pedersen

Portugal – Prof. Fernando Barriga

China – Dr. John Chen

Appendix 1 is the list of current and historic IR chairs, coordinators, steering committee members and national correspondents.

Ad hoc steering committee members (who were working group chairs in the past) will be taken out of the historic list of steering committee members and added into a new list of current and historic working group chairs.

4.2 Confirmation of national correspondents

South Africa – A le Roex (current national correspondent) recommends P le Roux succeed him should he move back to Cape Town end of 2005. P le Roux is willing to become national correspondent.

Australia McConachy – contact from S Scott

Mexico – contact from P Dando

Spain – contact from S Scott

Correspondents will be contacted once a year by the IR office to confirm they are still active as correspondents, or let the office know of their replacement.

4.2 IR membership

Since the last Steering Committee meeting there was no change in the membership status of the contributing member nations. The IR member nations total 28 countries: 5 Principal members (Germany, France, Japan, UK and USA), 6 Associate members (Canada, India, China, Korea, Portugal and Norway) and 17 Corresponding members (Australia, Austria, Brazil, Denmark, Iceland, Italy, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, Philippines, Russia, Spain, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland and SOPAC).

Anticipated changes in IR membership

Japan - as noted during the 2004 steering committee, Japan has funding in place till end 2005, after this a new source of funding must be found or Japan may need to change its membership status.

Russia has more than 100 members in the IR database (Table 1) and is most likely to become an associate member this year – waiting for formalities. K Freitag will follow up on this when she is at the Russia Ridge meeting in June.

Jesus Martinez-Frias, Spain, was contacted by S Scott to find out whether Spain would like to join IR again. S Scott obtained a positive response that through Professor Rosario Lunar, the Complutense University of Madrid has accepted to become an associate member of IR. Professor Lunar will organize a small working group in Spain.

New Zealand has a growing budget for Ridge-related science. They collaborate with NOAA, but should try and get involved in IR to open up more collaborative options.

Table 1: InterRidge members per nation – **highlighted** are nations with potential to change their IR membership status

11-30 members		31 – 100 members		More than 100 members	
Belgium	13	Italy	35	Russia	113
Korea	13	Spain	37	Japan	185
Sweden	14	India	45	UK	190
Iceland	16	China	51	Germany	196
Norway	16	Canada	67	France	284
Switzerland	16	Portugal	67	USA	957
Netherlands	17				
New Zealand	18				
Australia	29				

4.3 IR membership rules – things to update

Student awards: the steering committee agreed that IR will continue to give a student award of up to US\$ 700 at each IR theoretical institute/workshop for the best student presentation/poster. The organizing committee of the TI/workshop must announce this prior to the meeting. This committee also decides the “type” of student (e.g. part time, full time etc) that is eligible to partake in the award as well as whether or not the award should be split between more than one winner. The IR student award is to motivate young ridge researchers.

4.4 Involvement of/support for young scientists

A web page has been added to the IR website where students can “advertise” themselves if they are looking for PhD theses, post-doc positions, places on cruises, etc. The steering committee suggests that national representatives are approached by advisors/students to coordinate students on cruises, as these are in the international network of ridge scientists. These requests can be forwarded to the IR office to announce in the info emails. Furthermore, if PI’s know that they have available berths on cruises, they should forward this to the IR office to announce.

The IR office will also attempt to look for alternative sources of funding to support travel costs etc. for students (see 4.5 Update on possibility of starting an IR charity fund).

4.5 Update on possibility of starting an InterRidge charity fund

The IR office has been approached on numerous occasions by people attending IR activities as to whether IR can help with travel support, etc. At every IR meeting or activity, there is a high level of US scientist and student participation due to support from Ridge 2000. Other larger ridge programs should attempt to source national funding for their scientists; however there are many nations that do not have national ridge programs, and it is for these that IR should find ways to support participation in IR activities. This is part of IR's mission to keep the community growing and expanding.

IR charity fund - update

C Devey and K Freitag met with the Schleswig-Holstein ministry of the interior in January to find out more about establishing an IR charity fund. For the following reasons this is an unattractive option:

- A lawyer is needed to set up the fund
- The fund value must be set at the start, this money must be available when the fund is brought into life and the value of the fund may never go below this initial setup value, which means the money must be invested very conservatively.
- Need a fund manager from start of charity fund till "eternity" who ensures that the fund is profitable and reports during yearly audits,
- The fund manager needs to speak German, understand what IR does, and understand German fund law and regulations,
- When setting up the fund, the wording for what activities will be supported needs to be clearly defined, and yet care must be taken to leave many doors open in case the activities change over time – very delicate setup or there could be future problems,

In summary, to set up a charity fund (in Germany) a large amount of upfront money is required, the fund must be managed by an expert as you only get to use the fund "profits", and the fund is set up "for eternity" in Kiel requiring a local fund manager "for eternity".

The IR office suggested alternative ideas on how to approach the problem of sourcing funds (Appendix II). The steering committee's response to these is as follows:

- agree that a charity fund will not be pursued for the meantime
- try and find sponsorship for specific workshops, sponsors should be asked to send posters, advertisements, fliers to meetings and perhaps pay for exhibits at IR-related workshops
- ask the IR community for information on who sponsors could be and compile a list
- should companies and/or organisations wish to fund IR activities, they should not have representation on the steering committee, although they may be invited to attend these meetings

4.6 Bid for IR office 2007-2009

As the half-way mark for the IR office hosted in Germany has almost been reached, a new call for bids to host the office from 2007-2009 needs to be sent out to the IR community. A draft of the call for bids will be circulated to the steering committee for comment, and the final version will be posted on the IR website and advertised in IR News and in the IR info email. The ideal situation would be if 2-3 bids came in to choose from. The closing deadline, as in previous years, will be 31 March 2006.

4.7 Next steering committee meeting – when and where

The next meeting will be held in Moscow, Russia, just before the Minerals of the Ocean meeting (St Petersburg) which will probably take place in May.

5. IR Budget

5.1 IR Budget

With the exception of Portugal (and they are currently in the process of paying for 2004 and 2005), all member nations paid their dues for 2004 (Table 2). For 2005, principal member nations were billed for US\$25 000. Appendix III-1 shows the expenditures in 2004, and Appendix III-2 indicates the proposed expenditures for 2005. The IR budget for 2004 was accepted unanimously by the steering committee.

Table 2. InterRidge Income 2004

Membership fees	Expected	Received in €	
France	\$20.000,00	€ 16.532,56	Kiel
Germany	\$20.000,00	€ 16.054,83	Bremen
Japan	\$20.000,00	€ 16.000,00	Kiel
UK	\$20.000,00	€ 14.922,00	Kiel
USA	\$20.000,00	€ 15.277,67	Bremen
Canada	\$5.000,00	€ 3.958,86	Kiel
China	\$5.000,00	€ 3.781,76	Kiel
India	\$5.000,00	€ 3.958,85	Bremen
Portugal	\$5.000,00		
Korea	\$5.000,00	€ 3.958,85	Bremen
Norway	\$5.000,00	€ 3.958,85	Bremen
TOTAL	\$125.000,00	€ 98.404,23	

(exchange rate approx 0.75)

Three questions were raised regarding the budget:

1) why are the membership dues set in US dollars?

With the US dollar currently being weak compared to the Euro, there is a significant reduction in income for the German office due to an exchange rate loss. The steering committee discussed how it would be possible to spread the exchange rate "risk" over all the countries. An option would be to set the currency of the fees at the start of the office for the local currency using the dollar exchange rate of that time for that currency. This way exchange rate changes would not affect the budget of the office as strongly (most of the budget goes towards coordinator and assistant salaries currently). A final conclusion on this topic was not made.

2) should there be a third level of dues?

All steering committee members agreed that there should be 3 levels of membership status. This will enable nations to work towards becoming principal members by increasing their dues gradually. It will also encourage nations that have been part of IR for a long time to increase their membership fees – the steering committee will recommend this to the nation. A third membership level is also critical should a current principal member not have the funding for full principal membership status. The conceptual idea of what the new structure would be:

Present associate members ("New" members or nations with small budgets for ridge science) (US\$ 5000)

NEW LEVEL – "Permanent" members (varied between US\$ 5000 and US\$ 25 000, these nations have taken part in IR as associate members for an extended period already, have the financial capacity to pay more than US\$ 5000 even if they are a small ridge research community, and should be striving to become principal members)

Present principal members ("Sponsoring" members) (US\$ 25 000)

C Devey will draft a description of how this will work, and then circulate via email to the steering committee for comment. He will also come up with a suggestion for a name for the new "middle tier".

3) what are the reasons for increasing the IR budget?

The limited budget for IR is a continuous point of discussion at steering committee meetings. The main reasons for striving to increase the budget are to be able to financially support working groups (with meetings, travel support etc), to be able to give a bigger contribution to IR-associated meetings.

5.2 List of billed nations

Table 3: List of billed nations and contact people.

	Country	Bill sent to	National correspondent if different from billed person
PRINCIPAL MEMBERS	France	CNRS-INSU	Dr. J Dymont
	Germany	Prof Colin Devey	
	Japan	Dr. Kensaku Tamaki	
	UK	Mrs. Zena Davis	Dr. T Henstock
	USA	Dr. Charles R. Fisher	
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS	Canada	Dr. Shiri Srivastava	Prof S Scott
	China	Dr Yongshun John Chen	
	Korea	Ms Hyun-Joo Kang	Dr. Sang-Mook Lee
	India	Dr Abhay Mudholkar	
	Portugal	Fundacao Da Fcul	Prof Fernando Barriga
	Norway	Prof Rolf Birger Pedersen	

6. National updates

National updates (Appendix IV) were presented by all the five principal member nations, four of the 6 associate member nations, and two corresponding member nations:

Germany DeRidge (*C. Devey*) – principal member ((Appendix IV-1)

France InterRidge France (*J. Dymont*) – principal member (Appendix IV-2)

USA Ridge 2000 (*C. Fisher*) – principal member (presentation)

UK (T. Henstock) – principal member (presentation)

InterRidge Japan (*N. Seama*) – principal member (Appendix IV-3)

CanRidge (*S. Scott*) – associate member (Appendix IV-4)

InterRidge China (*J. Chen*) – associate member (presentation)

InRidge (K.A. Kamesh Raju) – associate member (presentation)

Norway (*R. Pedersen*) – associate member (presentation)

Korea (*submitted by S.-M. Lee*) – associate member (Appendix IV-5)

New Zealand (*submitted by I. White*) – corresponding member (Appendix IV-6)

Switzerland (*submitted by G. Frueh-Green*) – corresponding member (Appendix IV-7)

7. Working Groups

There are currently 7 active IR working groups with a total of 70 members + chairs, and one working group that still needs to start up (Table 4). Three working groups started up in 2004, two were part of the next decade science plan (Deep earth sampling – proposal Appendix V; Ultraslow

spreading ridges – workshop proposal Appendix VI), the third was approved by the steering committee last year (Biogeochemical interactions at deep-sea vents).

13 nationalities are represented in the IR working groups, scientists from the USA dominate (13), followed by Japan and France (both 11). There is at least one working group member from each principal and associate member nation. 5 working group chairs are from France, and one each from Korea, Portugal, USA and Germany. The number of working group members from less developed nations is 7%.

Table 4: Current InterRidge working groups

Theme	Objective	Start	WG-Chair
Ultraslow-spreading ridges	concentrate on the particular scientific and coordination problems posed by ultra-slow ridges	2004	Jon Snow, Mainz, Germany
Ridge-hotspot interaction	better understand the physical and chemical interactions between mantle plumes and mid-ocean ridges and their effects on seafloor geological, hydrothermal, and biological processes	2000	Jian Lin, WHOI, USA Jérôme Dymont, CNRS, France
Back-arc spreading systems	summarize past work on Back-Arc Basins and coordinate future studies	1995	Sang-Mook Lee, SNU, Korea
Mid-oceanic ridge ecosystems	increase international collaboration in hydrothermal biological studies and work on integrating ridge-crest biological and geological research	1994	Françoise Gaill, CNRS, France Nicole Dublier, Bremen, Germany
Monitoring and observatories	promote long term ocean bottom observatories. Establish a long-term observatory in the Atlantic	2002	Javier Escartin, IPG Paris, France Ricardo Santos, Azores, Portugal
Deep earth sampling	strengthen the ties to, and use of, global deep earth sampling facilities such as IODP, ICDP etc.	2004	Benoit Ilsedefonse, Montpellier, France
Biogeochemical interactions at deep-sea vents	address questions of biogeochemical interactions in different MOR and BAB environments and link scientists and their needs for technologies and sampling time	2004	Nadine le Bris, IFREMER, France
Global exploration	address the need for more basic data about many of the world's spreading axes		<i>to be announced</i>

7.1 Update and discussion

The IR working groups are a very important part of IR as they represent how international collaboration and driving ridge science forward take place in a longer-term effort. IR has not used the outcomes of working groups and their activities to their full extent to promote itself. For this reason, the office will start compiling successful achievements of IR working groups (such as proposals, cruises etc that were born out of IR workshops).

The office will also ask current working group chairs to supply information so that the office can compile working group fact sheets that can be handed out at workshops and conferences.

In order to keep the working groups active, the office will ask all working group chairs to visit their working group membership and if necessary rotate people. The steering committee suggests that where possible, working group chairs should try and find members from smaller ridge research nations and should also strive towards gender balance as IODP does.

Biogeochemical Interactions at Deep Sea Vents working group: N le Bris submitted a proposal for this working group at the 2004 steering committee meeting, and the working group was accepted

as the 8th IR working group. She attended this steering committee meeting to introduce and give an update of her working group (Appendix VII-1). She also proposed a R2K-IR theoretical institute on biogeochemical interaction at deep sea vents to be held in 2006 (see 10. Workshops and Meetings – News).

The steering committee is happy to see that the working group has taken off so well and congratulate N le Bris for this successful start. They suggest that she may consider a later date for the R2K-IR theoretical institute.

Mid-oceanic Ridge Ecosystems working group: F Gaill presented an update on this working group (Appendix VII-2). N Dublier has agreed to replace K Juniper as working group co-chair. As she is also Germany's second steering committee member this will provide synergies for meeting coordination. As of the 2007 steering committee meeting, C Fisher will take over from F Gaill and become co-chair of the working group. Until then, a "soft" transition will take place.

Hotspot-Ridge Interactions working group: J Dymont gave an update on this working group (Appendix VII-3). A major proposal was submitted to the IODP program (IODP proposal 646 Full) in October 2004, to drill and understand the origin of the "V-shaped" ridges at the Reykjanes Ridge.

The working group co-chairs are in the process of compiling a list of active or planned research projects on RHI in the different IR countries. Plans are also being developed to summarize the recent efforts of individual scientists/countries in meeting sessions and to promote closer international collaboration and research activities on ridge-hotspot interactions. The co-chairs will continue leading the group.

Ultraslow spreading ridges working group: J Snow accepted chairmanship of this working group. He drew up a proposal for his working group which as circulated among the steering committee in 2004. He is currently organizing an "Arctic Ridges" meeting in Italy in 2006 (see 11.4 POLAR/IR/R2K "Arctic Ridges" workshop, early 2006 and Appendix VI). This will be used as the starting point for this working group.

Deep earth sampling working group: B Ildefonse accepted chairmanship of this working group and attended this steering committee meeting to introduce his working group. He has established the members of his working group. The drilling technology person he has chosen is Jay Miller, who is an experienced geoscientist and will be used as the contact person to the engineers. B Ildefonse stated that he would keep the working group active by rotating members as necessary. He welcomes any suggestions for additional working group members from the steering committee. The working group will meet for the first time during the Joint IODP/R2K/IR/USSSP meeting in spring 2006 (Appendix V). Meetings are important as progress via electronic communication is difficult, therefore more meetings will be planned for the future.

The steering committee commented that the membership is slightly weak on the biology side and recommended asking W Bach for ideas and looking into Canadian biologists as possible members.

Monitoring and observatories working group: The focus of this working group, as decided at the last steering committee meeting, will stay on MOMAR until this is a smoothly running site. At the

International MOMAR implementation workshop held in April 2005 a MOMAR steering committee was formed. The working group has strong ties to the MOMAR committee.

The IR steering committee request that although the current focus is on MOMAR, the working group must not loose touch with other observatories that are coming online. Examples of current projects are Neptune (Canada and USA), ESONET, and the Japanese projects – the office will request that the working group co chairs put together a list of projects to post (with links) on the IR website. Areas of focus for the working group can also be on the technological side – not just on ridge science.

The steering committee recommends J Escartin shuffle the working group membership. A possible new member is Bob Dziak, and K Juniper should be asked for suggestions for Neptune people to add to the membership.

Backarc basin working group: D Christie, C Fisher, S-M Lee and S Givens are currently compiling a post-theoretical institute monograph to follow on from last year's R2K-IR theoretical institute. Two thirds of the manuscripts are in (AGU electronical manuscript review process) and the listed editors are now waiting on the remaining 7 manuscripts. The deadline for submitting is end of May 2005, and so progress is behind schedule.

The workshop report will go online as it was written immediately after the TI and there has been no progress since then on modifying it.

The office will ask S-M Lee to make a plan for the future activities of the working group.

Global exploration working group: This working group has not yet started as a chair has not been found to lead it. C Devey will try and find conveners to put together a workshop to check interest in unexplored areas of the ridge system (all disciplines) and link this to a "summer school" on how to explore for vent sites.

Further people that the steering committee think may have an interest in joining the working group are:

Cindy van Dover
Eva Ramirez-Lopez
Tim Shank
Peter Michael

People that were suggested in last year's st comm meeting were:

Marcia Maia (Brest) has expressed interest for the group, with a view toward the South MAR
Chess (Paul Taylor and Chris German)

8. General topics of interest

8.1 Status of RussiaRidge

Russia has still not joined InterRidge as an associate member nation. They would like to host the 2006 InterRidge steering committee meeting (10. Workshops and Meetings – New). K Freitag is presenting a talk on InterRidge at the upcoming RussiaRidge meeting on hydrothermal vents in June in St. Petersburg and will use the opportunity to find out the current status.

8.2 Feedback on ISA meeting (Jamaica)

The International Seabed Authority is a part of the United Nations. The Russians asked ISA to get involved in polymetallic sulfides and so ISA is getting involved in developing regulations and policies regarding mining of sulfides along ridges.

C Devey was invited to talk on the code of conduct for research at hydrothermal vents. This gave ISA a first opportunity to see how IR could help in their regulations. IR is a good place for ISA to find scientific expertise, but IR needs to know what ISA needs and then perhaps target a working group. Currently ISA has 2 working groups. One is led by Cindy van Dover and is biological, the other is on physical oceanography and geology, led by Andreas Thurnherr. The focus of both working groups is to determine what factors need to be looked at should sulfides be mined, and then understand the impacts of mining on these factors. Currently the working groups are finalizing the outcomes of their working group results. Some of the problems discussed during the meeting were resuspended sediment = "dust" that could be caused by mining, what is a "dead" deposit, and noise related to mining activities.

Perhaps ISA will support an instrument database.

C Devey will send out his abstract for this meeting.

8.3 "Code of conduct" for research at hydrothermal vents, discussion of WWF proposal

Urgency is needed in producing a code of conduct "product" as WWF has started putting together a proposal to make the Rainbow hydrothermal vent field a marine protected area (MPA), and InterRidge needs to make its presence as a stakeholder clear.

Previous attempts at drafting a code of conduct have not been satisfactory:

May 04 – you "must" – there was too much law and legal references in this draft

April 05 – you "should" – it would be impossible to get everyone to agree

Therefore the way to come up with the code is to ask input from scientists and the general public and formulate a realistic code that they will then believe in.

Continued work on this will be led by C Devey, F Gaill, N Dubilier and C Fisher. C Devey presented his code of conduct draft to the committee. In general, the steering committee agrees with the approach the draft has taken. Detailed discussions took place with regards to sample collection and the term "waste" with reference to the working area (leave a bit more open so that deploying instruments does not constitute "waste").

Furthermore, the bullet points need to be filled out more and not kept as simple as is the current case. Preamble needs to be very well worked (C Fisher and F Gaill), a longer preamble and justification than the current draft has is needed.

The timeline agreed upon by the steering committee was that an internal draft would be completed by the middle of May. The office will put this draft up on the website and announce that it is open for public comment for 6 weeks .

9. Workshops and meetings - Feedback

9.1. SCOR executive committee meeting, Sept 2004

C Devey and K Freitag attended this meeting to represent IR and also get a feel for possible collaboration/interaction with SCOR e.g. in the form of a SCOR working group. C Devey was invited by SCOR to attend a two-day meeting of all international program leaders before the SCOR meeting proper began. As of 2005, C Devey has become the German representative for SCOR, which enables him to represent both IR and Germany at this year's SCOR meeting in Australia. IR will send SCOR a yearly report for this 37th SCOR executive committee meeting.

9.2 India meeting, Jan 2005

Prior to giving feedback on this meeting, Kamesh Raju gave an update on his program (Appendix VIII). The one thing that he says the IR community can help with is to find tools for their ship by January 2006! India has put in a proposal for a cruise to the Carlsberg – Central Indian Ridges to look at hydrothermalism. They are currently looking for collaboration for this cruise. If Kamesh Raju sends an announcement to the IR office, it will be sent out to the community.

The IR Workshop entitled “Tectonic and oceanic processes along the Indian Ridge system and back arc basins” was hosted by NIO, in Goa, India, from 19-21 January 2005. The three-day workshop was well attended with a total of 80 participants from 10 countries. It was also very successful in that it

- Caught lots of attention and was an important meeting for Indian ridge scientists as it improved visibility of ridge science at a national level
- provided a forum for exchange of ideas and results and to encourage international collaboration in exploration of Indian Ocean ridge research using latest tools and techniques.

Students presented good posters and the IR Student Poster Award was split between three posters presented by K. V. Anoop, Dwijesh Ray and Sheryl O Fernandes.

9.3 MOMAR workshop, April 2005 (IR-R2K)

This workshop was attended by approximately 80 scientists from 12 countries, was aimed at making the move beyond planning the observatory (i.e. compiling the wish-list of useful experiments, parameters etc.) which had been achieved by the previous workshop toward defining the implementation plan to allow us to collect these data.

Workshop objectives

- continue the planning process for long-term monitoring while also taking into account the additional goals of a Ridge 2000 Integrated Study Site,
- design experiments to conduct both in the short-term (~3 years) and in the long-term when a

cable or buoy to provide power and data transmission might be in place,

- develop implementation plans to move these studies forward.

The workshop report is available on the IR website.

10. Workshops and meetings - New

10.1 (R2K)-IR Theoretical Institute 'Biogeochemical interactions at deep sea vents' end of 2006

N le Bris and her working group propose this workshop (Appendix VII-1), she will draft a formal proposal for the steering committee. The st comm suggests making it an ESF-funded workshop and try and find other partners.

In general, the steering committee agrees to this workshop pending the formal proposal.

10.2 Russia Ridge proposal to host 2006 steering committee meeting

The steering committee agree to this proposal (Appendix IX) and suggest the Russian organizers try and get a small 1-day general meeting added to the steering committee meeting such as was done in Beijing to increase the profile of ridge science.

10.3 Brazil workshop 2007 – proposal

Brazil submitted a proposal to IR for a workshop to take place in 2007 in Brazil and have this combined with the IR steering committee meeting 2007 (Appendix X). The steering committee agrees that a workshop in Brazil is a good idea and the timing is good. However, there needs to be a stronger scientific focus and theme. The steering committee recommends a “global exploration” angle to the workshop, where discussions could take place with regard to drilling new areas.

The steering committee recommends that the workshop follow a similar line as the China (2003) and India (2005) workshops did, with both national and international scientists attending. The meeting should be used for capacity building and having it in conjunction with the steering committee meeting, this should increase the profile of ridge science on a national level.

The steering committee approves IR involvement in this meeting, however a more detailed proposal should be presented at the 2006 steering committee meeting.

11. Workshops and meetings - Updates

11.1 Joint IODP/R2K/IR/USSSP meeting, spring 2006

This workshop was proposed by D Christie at the 2004 steering committee meeting. Since then, money has been approved. The title of the meeting will be "Evolution of oceanic lithosphere" and is planned to take place in spring 2006 around AGU

The steering committee approves IR involvement in this meeting.

11.2 Cyprus Field School and Field Trip, May 2005

IR and Ridge 2000 are organizing a field school and field trip to the Troodos Ophiolite in Cyprus in May 2005. Both events will last a week and are led by Joe Cann, Leeds University, UK. Participation is good, with 38 students attending the field school and 19 scientists on the field trip. The Ridge 2000 office is handling the budget for both trips as well as communication with the field school participants. The IR office is handling communication with the field trip participants. The steering committee has agreed that IR will provide travel support of approximately US\$ 300 per non-US student. The IR office will email the non-US students to apply for this money.

This meeting was approved during the 2004 steering committee meeting.

11.3 3rd international vent and seep biology meeting, September 2005 (IR-R2K)

Currently there are only 4 major topics. The steering committee believes there should be a broader range of topics in order to attract more people and interest. There is a concern that there is limited funding for travel support, so probably only 4 speakers can be invited. The steering committee suggests looking for young speakers as invited speakers.

K Freitag and K Kusek will attend this meeting as an opportunity to meet with the ChEss steering committee as well as meet the new Ridge 2000 office.

The planning is going well and communication about the meeting to non-US participants goes through IR, US participants communicate with the Ridge 2000 office. Online payment of registration fees etc. will be available through the Ridge 2000 website.

The local organizing committee is Horst Felbeck, Lisa Levin and Douglas Bartlett. The scientific organizing committee Craig Young, chair (USA), Nicole Dubilier (Germany), Crispin Little (UK), Chiaki Kato (Japan), Andrey Gebruk (Russia), and Daniel Desbruyeres (France).

This meeting was approved during the 2003 steering committee meeting.

11.4 POLAR/IR/R2K “Arctic Ridges” workshop, early 2006

This workshop will take place in early 2006 in Italy. J Snow has requested funding and put together a comprehensive proposal for the workshop (Appendix VI).

12. IR News and website

12.1 Modified look for IR News

As with every issue of IR news, there were about 50 returns for the 2004 edition. To try and limit this, the IR membership database will constantly be maintained,. When IR people in the database are contacted or new people register, they are asked whether they would like to receive IR News as a hardcopy or pdf - 55 people so far have indicated they would prefer pdf's.

Approximately 73% (67.8% in 2003) of the mailings go to the Principal member nations. Individuals from Associate member nations make up another 15% (16.8% in 2003) of the total list. The remaindering 12% (15.4% in 2003) are distributed amongst 45 different nations.

12.2 IR flier

An IR science flier was designed by the IR office mid-2004 and gets distributed at all meetings attended by the coordinator. The upcoming project planned by the IR office is to make an IR working group folder which can also be distributed at meetings. For this, each working group has an A4 double-sided sheet to promote itself, compiled as a package (as many organizations distribute at meetings).

12.3 New website – general and specific additions

The IR website was completely restructured and redesigned and the new website went online in February 2005. The redesign was undertaken by the IR office (K Freitag and a student helper, Sven Meyer, with input from K Kusek). This meant it was a low-budget project.

The website is grouped into five sections:organization; science; news and information;education and outreach; downloads. This simplified structure makes it easier to nagivate. Almost all of the publications of the IR office since 1994 (all IR News issues, meeting abstract volumes, meeting reports) are available as PDF files from the website. This makes the information available to all who are interested, and saves on printing and postage costs. IR working group, office and national updates will continue to be posted on the website.

Online registration is available again. The IR membership directory is fully operational and easily maintained now that the format of the IR membership database is compatible with the membership directory database. Other than the Cruise database, other IR databases have not been maintained.

The maintenance und updating of the IR website continues to take a substantial amount of time as well as transferring the old website information.

Currently no server tracking capability is available to obtain web access statistics. Verbal and email comments to the office have indicated a positive response to the new website .

13. InterRidge databases

13.1 Membership database

The IR membership database has 2485 listed members in April 2005. Individuals often do not update contact details, which is a constant challenge in maintaining the database. There are about 550 listed members who have not given an email contact option. These will be sent postcards asking them to confirm their interest in remaining in the database (first batch ready to go out). The deadline for responding is 31 July 2005.

In addition to the postcards, the office has contacted about 250 people directly for updates on their status and contact information, this work will continue. It is critical that the membership database is kept as free of deadwood as possible, as this can mask the true activity of a nation and results in IR News being distributed to unknown people (an unnecessary cost).

To further ensure an up-to-date database, each nation will be sent a list of their country's members to be updated at a national level as well.

13.2 Proposal for funding contribution from IR to ChEss for biology database merge

The IR biology database is being merged with ChEssBase, a biological database that has been designed and implemented by ChEss. A proposal put together by the IR office and ChEss was presented to the steering committee; it requests that IR contributes US\$ 700 to this project (Appendix XI). The steering committee agrees to this.

13.3 Potential strategies for scientific database hosting

As the IR office moves every 3 years and the expertise and scientific preferences of the office thus change regularly, it is difficult for IR to maintain scientific databases. The office recommends that scientific databases are not hosted by IR but rather by organizations that focus on that specific science. A good example of how this can work is the current merge of the IR biology database with ChEssBase.

Hydrothermal vent sites database – a suitable hosting organization is not currently known. The office will send T Henstock the data so that he can assess the scale of the database. J Dymant would be willing to create a map using locations for the IR website.

InterRidge MOR and BAB cruise database - the office will clean this up and continue to request information on cruises from the InterRidge community

International Vessel and Vehicle database – the University of Delaware hosts a “Research Ship Schedules and Information database where international “Research Ship Specifications” can be searched. A link will be made from the IR website to this.

The steering committee has requested the IR office to determine how best to set up a database for keeping track of deployed instruments. The data that should go in this are: 1) type of instrument, 2) deployment and retrieval dates, 3) latitude, longitude, and height above seafloor, 4) responsible

person. Although InterRidge is a good organization to host this database, the office noted that as with the cruise database, the scientists will have to supply IR with this data regularly to make the database useful.

14. Education and Outreach

The IR education and outreach coordinator, K Kusek, presented her plans and an update to the steering committee (Appendix XII). Meeting the steering committee members enabled her to get involvement from many member nations for her projects, which include a video series project and science writer-at-sea initiative. New plans to reach out to the journalism community are also underway.

* Video Series: K Kusek and Robin Cooper (Future Vision: Educational Media Programming) are seeking funding for the video series, the team for which is in place and ready to go.

* Science Writer-At-Sea: K Kusek will pilot test the writer program on a cruise in summer 2005 with Steering Committee member R Pedersen (Norway). A new graduate student in science journalism at Columbia University (USA) will join K Kusek on the cruise; the IR team will seek funding to continue this program once the pilot test is complete. K Freitag and student Swen Meyer round out the web development team for this project.

* Journalism Community Outreach:

1. K Kusek submitted a proposal for IR to host a symposium at the next AAAS (American Association for the Advancement of Science) meeting in St. Louis, Missouri (Feb. 2006). It is anticipated that this symposium will kick off a 'lecture series' for IR.

2. As a result of St. Comm. discussions, K Kusek will also submit a proposal for IR to participate in the next ESOF (EuroScience Open Forum), to be held in July 2006 in Munich, Germany.

* Other: The Steering Committee responded to IR's need for an 'identity' with an idea to create a concise storybook of "recent achievements" that could not have been done without IR involvement. K Kusek is leading this project, which will be completed in a similar vein to ODP's "Greatest Hits".

The steering committee members from European countries stated that there is lots of EU money available for international and developing countries collaboration that could be tapped.

15. Review 2004 action list

Most of the items on the 2004 action list were done. The following are still outstanding and will be addressed at the next steering committee meeting:

other	Update Germany bid with IFM-GEOMAR details	CD
other	find info on Year of the Planet Earth 2006	CD
other	Program admin/rules update; circulate among St Com via email	CD/KF
Working group	Global exploration working group to be established	KF

16. Last minute issues

None recorded by IR coordinator.

17. Actions for 2005

Member	Find second member for Japan for the steering committee	NS
Member	Australia and Spain – contacts from Steve Scott	SS
Member	Mexico – contact from Paul Dando	PD
Member	Russia – follow up on move to become associate member	KF
Finance	Third category of dues – draft description of how this could work as well as “name” for third category, circulate to St Com	CD
Finance	Japan needs a new source of funding to stay principal member of IR	NS
Finance	IR office to attempt to look for alternative sources of funding to support student travel costs	KF
Finance	IR office to get involved in finding sponsorship for workshops	KF
Office	Take ad hoc st com members off the historical St Com member list and make a working group chair list	KF
Office	Figure out a way of setting up a database to keep track of instruments deployed	KF
Office	Announce bid to host the IR office 2007-9 is open	KF
Office	Make changes to last year’s minutes	KF
Office	Update membership rules with student award details	KF
Office	Article on successful data exchange between IR cruises (S Atlantic)	KK
Office	Start compiling a list of successful collaborations etc for the IR image	KK
Office	Contact national correspondents once a year to confirm they are still active or get replacements	KF
Office	Send St Com members list of their country’s members to help keep IR membership up to date.	KF
Office	Hydrothermal vent site database – send T Henstock data to assess scale of database	KF/TH
Working Group	Get info from current WG chairs to compile working group fact sheets	KF
Working Group	Ask WG chairs to verify/update their working group membership	KF
Working Group	Try and find conveners to put together a workshop to check interest in global exploration and thus the need for an IR global exploration working group	CD
Code	Preamble code of conduct – see timeline (8.3)	FG
Code	Justification for code of conduct - see timeline (8.3)	CF
Code	Once draft is ready, post code of conduct on website for public comment	KF
Workshop	Formal proposal for Theoretical Institute “biogeochemical interactions at deep sea vents”	NLB
Other	Circulate abstract for ISA meeting in Jamaica 2004	CD