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# InterRidge

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## Steering Committee Meeting 1994 Report

Ocean Research Institute, University of Tokyo  
Tokyo, Japan  
5 & 6 September, 1994

Chair:  
Roger Searle

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**InterRidge Steering Committee Meeting 1994  
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Absent: Joe Cann, John Delaney, Daniel  
Desbruyères and Martin Sinha

**InterRidge Steering Committee  
Tokyo, 5-6 September 1994**

**AGENDA**

**Introduction and Welcome** (Chair)

**Apologies for Absence**

**InterRidge Steering Committee Constitution**

To discuss and if necessary modify the constitution.

**Minutes of last meeting**

**Report of the Co-Ordinator**

To receive the report of the Co-Ordinator on activities completed during the year to date.

Discussion

**InterRidge Budget**

To receive a financial report from the Co-Ordinator.

Discussion (Note: Prof. Francheteau has requested a formal review of the budget and InterRidge subscriptions, and the Chair has prepared a reply).

**Changes of representatives**

To suggest and agree changes of membership of InterRidge committees, working groups and national representatives, where necessary, in order to reflect the requirements of the constitution.

**Reports from Working Groups**

To receive annual reports from the Working Groups:

Global	(Langmuir)
Meso-Scale	(Searle for Sinha)
Active Processes	(Searle for Delaney)
Biological	(Lutz)

Discussion of reports.

**Interaction with other organisations**

To receive reports on contacts with other organisations as follow:

SCOR Working Group 99	(Searle for Sinha)
FARA	(Langmuir and Needham)
ODP	(Searle and Fox)

Discussion.

**InterRidge Program Plan**

To ratify the InterRidge Program Plan.

**InterRidge Phase 2**

To consider in more detail the shape of Phase 2, and agree actions for its detailed planning and implementation.

**Calendar for 1995**

To receive and if necessary update the provisional calendar.

**Any Other Business**

China 1996 Meeting, General InterRidge Meeting, Working Group Meetings

Expanding InterRidge Membership

Meeting and Workshop Organisation and Co-ordination with other Programs

# InterRidge Steering Committee Meeting 1994 Report

The Chair and Steering Committee formally thank K. Tamaki, T. Urabe, H. Fujimoto and the other members of InterRidge Japan, ORI, ERI, and JAMSTEC for the excellent hospitality and facilities they have provided.

The meeting was attended by the following members of the Steering Committee: Roger Searle (Chair), Bob Detrick, Jeff Fox, Jean Francheteau, Charlie Langmuir, David Needham, Kensaku Tamaki and Testuro Urabe. Apologies were received from John Delaney, Daniel Desbruyères, and Martin Sinha all of whom were unable to attend. Joe Cann, invited as Chair of the Active Processes Working Group, also presented his apologies for being unable to attend. Richard Lutz attended as appointed alternate for Daniel Desbruyères, Hiromi Fujimoto of the Earthquake Research Institute, Chair of InterRidge Japan, attended as an observer, and Heather Sloan attended as Co-Ordinator.

## 1 InterRidge Steering Committee Constitution

Following a request made by T. Matsumoto during the 1993 Steering Committee Meeting for the addition of a second Japanese representative, the Steering Committee increased the number of representatives from one to two for Principal Member nations and welcomed T. Urabe as a new member of the Steering Committee. A corresponding modification was made to the InterRidge Program Plan (see Appendix A, section 7.3).

## 2 Minutes of the Last Meeting

The "InterRidge Steering Committee Meeting 1993 Report" was table and accepted by the Committee.

## 3 InterRidge Office - Co-Ordinator's Report

The Co-Ordinator's Report was presented by H. Sloan. The full text of this report may be found in Appendix B

## 4 InterRidge Budget

### 4.1 InterRidge Budget 1993

The 1994 InterRidge Budget (see Appendix C) was tabled and approved by the Steering Committee.

**ACTION:** The InterRidge Office is charged with preparing the 1995 budget for review by the Steering Committee in San Francisco.

### 4.2 1993 Subscriptions

K. Tamaki reported that approximately \$5,000, designated as partial Japanese subscription for 1993, remained in the Japanese InterRidge budget. J. Francheteau indicated that the French subscription for 1993 was also now available in the newly created Dorsales budget. Both expressed their countries' wish that these funds be paid to the US National Science Foundation.

**ACTION:** It was agreed that H. Sloan would contact D. Epp at the NSF to make him aware that these funds were now available and to request exact details required for their transfer. These details would then be communicated by the InterRidge Office to J. Francheteau and K. Tamaki.

### 4.3 The French Request

Following earlier discussions with R. Searle (InterRidge Chair) J. Francheteau (InterRidge Correspondent for France) formally asked, on 15 July 1994, that the InterRidge Steering Committee include a discussion of the 1995 InterRidge budget in its agenda for the September 1994 Tokyo meeting. In his 15 July correspondence, J. Francheteau confirmed that France would pay its 1993 and

1994 dues but is asking for a reduction of the amount of the 1995 dues. He mentioned that, although an alternative might be to keep the level of dues the same but provide a greater return for the annual contribution (e.g. provision of funds for IRSC meetings), he doubted that this would be feasible.

At the Steering Committee meeting in Tokyo, J. Francheteau presented and explained France's position concerning the InterRidge Office budget and summarised it as follows:

"The French position is a serious one and should be considered as such.

France is requesting InterRidge to reduce the amount of the member contributions and asks for a host-country contribution. An examination of the budget figures as presented by the Durham Office shows that it is only possible to reduce member nation contributions significantly if the host-country contributes significantly.

Suggestions for a significant host-country contribution include :

- support of the Chair's salary (approx. \$30,000),
- support or waiver of the overhead charged by the University of Durham (approx. \$10,000).

At present the host-country makes no specific contribution.

The request by France for a host-country contribution is reasonable and justified because :

- 1) The UK bid offer to InterRidge did include a specific host-country contribution (\$20,000 in the budget proposed for the bid). France feels that this written commitment should be honored.
- 2) Prior InterRidge Office management included considerable host-country contribution :
  - by the USA: 95-99 % support of the Seattle Office,
  - by France: 100 % support of the co-chair of InterRidge for salary and travel.

We have moved from a situation where the host-country(ies) was(were) contributing 100 % of the cost to one where the host-country contributes nothing.

Refusal by the host-country to contribute :

- 1) would create a precedent for future moves of the InterRidge Office,
- 2) would make it impossible to reduce the cost of member nation contributions (without additional members),
- 3) could create a very difficult situation for InterRidge should France choose to withdraw either fully or partially.

France makes a plea to the host-country to restore a significant contribution to the office bid. France also makes a plea to the IRSC to avoid closing the door to what is felt a justifiable request."

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The Chair thanked J. Francheteau for his presentation of France's point of view. He noted that he could not give a formal reply for the UK without consultation and opened the subject for discussion by the Steering Committee, who examined the matter at considerable length and reached the following conclusions (with formal abstentions by R. Searle (Chair) and by J. Francheteau and H.D. Needham (as representatives from France).

"The Steering Committee notes with pleasure that France has confirmed her 1993 and 1994 contributions to join InterRidge as a principal charter member together with the US, Japan and the UK. It recognizes that, with InterRidge now dependent on the \$20 000 annual fees for principal membership, agreement on budgetary matters is an important issue, and that the concerns raised by France need to be carefully examined, in particular with respect to a host-country contribution and the accountability of the budgetary process to the sponsoring nations.

Two major questions were discussed in response to the arguments presented by France:

- (1) Is the InterRidge Office budget reasonable for the level of service that is currently provided?
- (2) How should the budget be paid for?

It is the unanimous opinion of the steering committee that the budget for the InterRidge office is appropriate for the services it currently performs. There is a clear need to have an internationally respected and highly experienced leader in the Chair's role, and to have a post-doctoral scientist as the co-ordinator. We consider it entirely reasonable that some financial support be made available in partial compensation for the efforts we expect the chairperson to employ to the detriment of his or her own research work, and that asking an InterRidge Office to function with no secretarial

assistance would undermine the capability of the Office to provide satisfactory services for the funds it receives. The InterRidge Office already plays a significant role in ridge crest activities. It is involved with planning and organization of five or more meetings per year, including the publication of results and reports from those meetings, acts as a clearinghouse for information and communications for hundreds of investigators world wide, publishes two issues of a newsletter each year, and co-ordinates the activities of more than 50 people involved in various committees and working groups. It is the view of the Steering Committee that the current budget of the InterRidge Office should not be reduced.

Concerning the question of how the budget should be paid for, possible sources of additional funds include a larger number of member nations, or a significant contribution from the host country. It would clearly be desirable to have the membership of InterRidge expanded although, at present, there are clear limits to this possibility. Even if, as we hope and anticipate, Germany joins InterRidge in the coming months, the total 1995 contributions from five principal member nations at the current rate would just cover the present annual budgetary requirements. Second, we agree that, as a general principle and precedent, it is desirable that the host country contribute to the funding of the InterRidge Office. The US and France provided substantial support in order to get InterRidge started, reflecting a real, high level commitment to the program and, in a sense, acknowledgement of the indirect benefits that accrue from being central to the activities of a large, international group of scientists.

In order to address these two budgetary issues, and in direct response to France's concerns, the Steering Committee asks Roger Searle, as the current InterRidge Chair (1) to renew actively efforts to encourage additional countries to join InterRidge and (2) to approach the appropriate UK agencies to request a significant gesture of host country support for the InterRidge Office. In order to make the budgetary proceedings for 1995 more open and efficient, we also ask the Chair to submit a 1995 budget for consideration by member nations in advance of the issue of invoices in January.

There will be different possible outcomes to these recommendations. If additional funds become available through increased membership or host country support, then either the membership subscriptions could be correspondingly reduced, or we could ask for additional services from the InterRidge Office. The steering committee suggests that, among other possibilities, one legitimate area to support - for example through a host country contribution - would be development of an InterRidge database. Aims could be to implement rapidly an information database and to catalyze the process of developing effective interdisciplinary databases that take into account the particular interests of each InterRidge nation.

Despite these efforts, it is possible that additional funds will not become available for 1995. In this event, the steering committee would still believe it is essential for the InterRidge Office to remain viable at the level of service which it is now able to provide. We believe that this is a minimum requirement for InterRidge to continue to exist, let alone develop as a robust international program.

The steering committee fully recognizes that InterRidge must be an endeavour that leads not only to the advance of science in the larger context, but also to substantial scientific returns for the participating countries. Since InterRidge is still primarily in the planning stages, the full results of the international co-operation cannot yet be expected to have borne fruit and the full scope of what will be possible remains to be seen. Nevertheless, we consider that very real progress has been made, notably towards defining scientific and practical objectives for integrated studies under the Meso-scale and Global themes, objectives which can best be harnessed by having a diversity of researchers, platforms and tools on a scale only possible in an international context. We also note that participation in InterRidge has already helped to encourage national efforts in ridge-crest studies and that it has given individual scientists a new opportunity to strengthen their personal research projects. Participation in the planning of the more operational phases of InterRidge programs will lead to still greater benefits.

The achievements to date, the widespread recognition of InterRidge, the ambitious goals of this program, and the fact that the program is still in the formative stages show that the program has great potential but still needs careful nurturing to come to fruition. Since France is one of the premier oceanographic nations, all members of the Steering Committee are very concerned that France would consider withdrawing its support from a program that is in great need of its energies and ideas in order to be successful. Despite the inevitable difficulties that attend the initiation of an international

program, we believe that the long term benefits that we can expect to accrue from investment in the development of such a program will far outweigh short term impediments.

In conclusion the Steering Committee acknowledges the concerns of France and urges that every effort be made to improve the InterRidge budgetary process and to increase InterRidge resources through host country support and through attracting new member nations. The Steering Committee also urges a continuing commitment from France, in recognition of the larger InterRidge objectives and their benefits for scientists from all participating nations."

**ACTION:**

"The Steering Committee asks Roger Searle, as the current InterRidge Chair (1) to renew actively efforts to encourage additional countries to join InterRidge and (2) to approach the appropriate UK agencies to request a significant gesture of host country support for the InterRidge Office. In order to make the budgetary proceedings for 1995 more open and efficient, we also ask the Chair to submit a 1995 budget for consideration by member nations in advance of the issue of invoices in January."

## **5 Membership**

### **5.1 Spain**

It was decided that, failing further correspondence from Spain concerning their subscription fee, the Chair propose Associate Membership rather than Principal Membership to the Spanish National Correspondent.

### **5.2 Rights and responsibilities of membership**

The InterRidge Membership structure was discussed. The agreed modifications may be found in section 7.1 of the InterRidge Program Plan (Appendix A) which give full details of Principal, Associate and Corresponding Membership. See also section 8 of this report

## **6 Reports from the Working Groups**

### **6.1 Global Working Group - Charlie Langmuir**

#### *Global Project Planning Activities*

- A. Printing and distribution of a report from Paris meeting which incorporated comments from meeting participants (15%) and from the 1993 Steering Committee Meeting. The report deals with:
  - Scientific problems for SWIR, SEIR, PAR
  - Discussion of the role of InterRidge
- B. Baltimore Indian Ocean Meeting, 22 May, 1994 This meeting provided a venue for discussion of scheduled and proposed Indian Ocean Cruises, and focused an interdisciplinary on regard on the Indian Ocean Ridges.
- C. Arctic Meeting (15-17 Nov, 1994; Kiel) This meeting is in response to a demand generated by the community identifying the scientific problems in the Arctic as significantly different to those of the Indian Ocean.

#### *Sea-Going Activities Currently Scheduled*

- A. Two MG&G Sampling legs on SEIR (Chief Scientists: Cochran, Christie, and Sempéré, USA)
- B. Mapping of the western SWIR (Chief Scientists: Grindley and Madsen, USA)
- C. Two programs of mapping and sampling of part of the PAR (Chief Scientists: Géli and Bougault, France; Bloomer, Castillo, and Natland, USA)
- D. "Galièni" Cruise to the SWIR (Chief Scientists: Patriat et al., France)
- E. Bouvet Triple Junction (Chief Scientists: Mitchell and Livermore, UK)

These cruises are in response to Global Planning but are not part of the larger collaborative international problems. They tend to be individually oriented, self interest driven investigation rather than a cohesive program of global exploration.

#### *Problems with execution of the Global Agenda*

- A. Difficulties with hydrothermal programs. The reasons for this may be due the lack of funding for hydrothermal vent research and the limited number of people working in this area.
- B. What's the point of funding sites that can never be investigated due to logistical difficulty?
- C. Need for basic input from various facets of the international community according to their specific capabilities rather than their national program interests.
- D. Current plans do not foster co-operation. At present national programs consist of sequential isolated cruises due to the nature of the science. This tendency towards sequential investigations is reinforced by logistical difficulty in reaching these isolated sites.
- E. What's in store for Phase 2? Random progress is anticipated for the future of the Global Program rather than planned, programmed progress which would be preferable.

#### *Suggestions for Future Actions*

- A. Concrete steps towards international database: Global Atlas
- B. Convene a meeting to agree on standards and procedure for the collection of data for the Global Atlas and to make a clear statement of InterRidge policy towards availability and distribution of data.
- C. It is necessary that Phase 2 of the InterRidge Global Program incorporates meso-scale activities to be sufficiently broad for collaborative programs
- D. Needs to contain ridge segments that are not isolated or at high latitudes but rather focused more on thematic bases of investigator such as the super-slow-spreading end-member of spreading centers, for example the SWIR? This requires a phased approach which starts with a global perspective, progresses to meso-scale, and ultimately involves investigation of hydrothermal sites. If InterRidge were instrumental in co-ordinating such an overall, progressive program, then the Global project would be much more integrated with the other aspects of the Program and InterRidge might be of greater interest to individual investigators and national programs.
- E. Take steps to foster discovery of logistically acceptable hydrothermal sites. Particularly, a site in the Indian Ocean would be in the interest of the biological objectives within the Global Program. Given the results of recent investigation, this is an achievable goal of value to the InterRidge Program.
- F. The Global Project recommends that the Steering Committee endorse and support the White Sub Project as essential for complete accomplishment of Global Project objectives.
- G. The Global Project recommends that the Steering Committee endorse and support conversion of the Japanese submarine R/V Matsu from nuclear to diesel fuel to be used as a research platform.

#### *Discussion and action summary*

- White Sub Project

The White Sub Project is an initiative to investigate and encourage the conversion of a retiring US Naval Nuclear Submarine to exclusive use as a research platform. A workshop to be held in Washington, D.C. on 21 & 22 Sept, 1994, will focus on this possibility. The project would be extremely costly and its accomplishment depends on determining a lot of the policy concerning such an initiative. The submarine, although available for civilian research, would be crewed by navy personnel. The question of international exploitation of this platform remains to be resolved. The Steering Committee endorses this project and encourages its development. R. Searle will write to the appropriate individuals or committees to be identified expressing the position of InterRidge.

- Japanese Sub Project

The Steering Committee expressed its endorsement and support of the Japanese ship R/V Matsu conversion from nuclear to diesel fuel to be completed in 1996. The capacity of the converted R/V Matsu to carry out long range surveys at high latitudes make it an excellent candidate for mid-ocean ridge mapping in these areas. Interest has been expressed by the international ridge research community in carrying out such surveys as part of a concerted global mapping scheme.

