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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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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.

- Further discussion and actions concerning the Global Project Working Group Report appear in section 9 "InterRidge Phase 2" of this report.

### **6.2 Meso-Scale Working Group**

A summary of the report presented by the Chair on behalf of M. Sinha. See Appendix D for the full text of the report.

#### ***Discussion and action summary***

The Chair thanked M. Sinha for the Meso-Scale Working Group Report.

The Chair acknowledges M. Sinha's request to step down as Chair of the Meso-Scale Working Group. Jian Lin was nominated as replacement for M. Sinha. In the event that J. Lin does not accept, R. Detrick will take the Chair for one year until a suitable person can be found.

- Upcoming 4-D Architecture of the Oceanic Lithosphere Workshop

R. Searle will contact M. Sinha to ask for a summary of site selection requirements for the quantification of fluxes aspects of the Meso-Scale Project.

It was suggested that some biologists be included in the 4-D Architecture of the Oceanic Lithosphere Workshop. R. Lutz suggested L. Mullineaux, C. Cavanaugh, and K. Juniper as possible candidates.

The Steering Committee charges the convenors of the 4-D Architecture of the Oceanic Lithosphere Workshop with defining the critical experiments which require international co-operation as the product of the Workshop. This product should be a carefully enunciated feasible list of experiments to be carried out over 3-5 years, that lead to the answers of a well posed set of compelling scientific questions. This will make site selection much easier to resolve.

The Steering Committee charges C. Mével, H. Elderfield and M. Sinha with the development and organisation of a workshop: "Quantification of Fluxes at the Second-Order Segment Scale."

- Back-Arc Basin Database

A letter from the Steering Committee will be sent to those participants in Back-Arc Basin Studies Workshop who agreed to work on the various databases enquiring about their progress and suggesting the WWW Global Digital Atlas as an effective way of moving forward.

The Steering Committee Charges the Meso-Scale Working Group to follow up on the recommendations made by participant in the BAB Workshop to create a BAB petrological, multi-beam bathymetry, and geophysical database.

### **6.3 Active Processes**

A summary of the report presented by the Chair on behalf of J. Delaney. See Appendix E for the full text of the report.

#### ***Discussion and action summary***

- Active Processes Working Group Chair

The Chair recommended and the Steering Committee agreed that J. Delaney's suggestion that J. Cann replace him as liaison to the Active Processes Working Group, be put in abeyance temporarily until J. Cann's position is clearer.

- The Steering Committee was brought up to date on the SOSUS Array by R. Detrick:

The US Navy has proposed to shut off the Bermuda and Keflavik arrays of the SOSUS System eliminating monitoring in the Atlantic, south of Iceland. Efforts are underway headed by C. Doorman, (former head of WHOI) and Deutch (US Sect. of Defence) who have set up a committee to develop a set of recommendations to keep these arrays in operation. Their committee is due to report their recommendations at the end of September. It is conceivable that these arrays may be shut off by the end of 1994. This process would be permanent since the arrays would be destroyed. In order to prevent this, the operational cost of US\$ 2-3 million must be found in a very short time. Presently, this effort involves only US programs and agencies so that for the time being InterRidge intervention is not deemed necessary.

InterRidge will keep a watching brief on the development of the situation.

- Event Detection and Response

The Steering Committee agrees that the level of knowledge of the duration and activity of events is at present, insufficient to warrant immediate development of observatory deployment. The role of InterRidge in establishment of a ridge crest observatory requiring international co-operation is

obviously one of co-ordination. When it comes to instrument deployment and recovery from ships of opportunity, the need for international collaboration is also clear.

In the Atlantic, an event detection and response program requires international co-operation in order to bring it to the level of development which exists in programs focusing on the Northeast Pacific. Logistical and weather conditions in the Atlantic will necessitate a greater co-operative effort and more accurate detection methods. The role of InterRidge could be to: 1) help to develop co-ordination between detection and response and 2) to co-ordinate the international effort required to execute it.

- Action on the Active Processes Working Group

The Steering Committee charges the Active Processes Working Group to define their goals and develop a set of experiments that are compatible with the InterRidge objectives and philosophy and to determine what the role of InterRidge might be in such a program in view of the report presented here.

The Active Processes Working Group is charged with development of a strategy for repeated time series measurements or event monitoring and developing novel methods of event detection taking into account the potential destruction of the SOSUS Array.

#### 6.4 Biological Studies - R. Lutz, appointed alternate for D. Desbruyères

Membership of the Biological *Ad Hoc* Committee:

D. Desbruyères	(France; Chair)
P. Dando	(UK)
J.R. Delaney	(US)
D. Dixon	(UK)
A. Fiala-Médioni	(France)
C. Fisher	(USA)
H. Fricke	(Germany)
F. Gaill	(France)
J. Hashimoto	(Japan)
K. Juniper	(Canada)
R. Lutz	(USA)
D. Nelson	(USA)
S. Ohta	(Japan)
A.-L. Reysenbach	(USA)
K.O. Stetter	(Germany)
V. Tunnicliffe	(Canada)

R. Lutz recommends that 1 or 2 geologists be added to the Biological Studies *Ad Hoc* Committee and nominates J. Delaney as an excellent addition.

The *Ad Hoc* Committee has been charged to focus on issues which are specific to ecosystems at the mid-ocean ridges with the aim of integrating them with interdisciplinary aspects of the InterRidge Program. In general terms the objectives of the Biological Studies Working Group have been stated as follows:

- A. Understand and quantify the relevant biological production pathways and organic matter exportation to the deep-sea.
- B. Understand the evolutionary biology of the vent organisms and their dispersal mechanism at different time-space scales.
- C. Determine the relative influence of biological interactions and physical chemical and geological processes on the distribution and abundance of organisms.

In more detail, the objectives of the *Ad Hoc* Committee are to:

- A. Promote the exchange of samples and results which is critical to development of Biological Ridge Studies. In order to accomplish this it will be necessary to:
  - foster activity which has been taking place both formally and informally over the last 2 years and expand it to encompass inclusion of international, interdisciplinary scientists on each cruise and
  - form an international databank of those samples which have been collected over the last 10-15 years.
- B. Multi-year survey of biological communities - dependent upon locations of geologic surveys
- C. Promote interdisciplinary operations at sea

A meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Committee has been tentatively scheduled for early 1995. Taking into account expense and the potential value of a meeting held at that time, it would be advisable to consider delaying the meeting and expanding it to include several other pertinent members of the international ridge biology community. This would promote the production of a valuable and concrete result.

One meeting which took place in the last year, actively involved an interdisciplinary effort from both geologist and biologist. It concerned biogeography/gene flow on global and meso-scales. This RIDGE-organised workshop entitled "Larval Dispersion", was convened by Laurant Mullineaux and Donal Manahan on 19-21 May, 1994 at Lake Tahoe, USA. This workshop was attended by the NSF Program Chair indicating a substantial interest on his part in the development of a co-ordinated integrated effort constructed by the biological community that fits into the context of the RIDGE Initiative.

#### *International Biological Databank*

The necessity for developing an international databank and the benefit it would bring is recognised throughout the community. It will require a mechanism for sample exchange to broaden distribution and avoid duplication of effort.

Frozen/preserved collections are concentrated at the following institutes:

IFREMER (Desbruyères, Segonzac)  
JAMSTEC/ORI (Ohta, Hashimoto)  
Rutgers (Vrijenhoek, Lutz)  
Scripps (Felbeck)  
Banyals (Fiala-Médioni)

#### *IMAX (Documentary film and HDTV Broadcast)*

Planning and production of a wide-screen film tentatively entitled "Origins" is currently underway and is due for release in late 1995-6. Two MIR submersibles will be used as the camera platform. It will focus on the on-going programs of the submersibles Shinkai 6500, Nautille and Alvin as they investigate the biota/ "ecologies" at 6 hydrothermal vent sites, provisionally:

TAG  
Juan de Fuca (Godzilla)  
9°-10°N (Oct-Dec 1995)  
Southern EPR  
A back-arc basin site, possibly Manus, Lau or Marianas  
Kamchatka.

Production of this film presents a unique opportunity to the InterRidge community to bring to the public a presentation of the work being carried out at the mid-ocean ridges. In addition, the simultaneous deployment of two or more submersibles creates the possibility of carrying out experiments which would otherwise be impossible.

NSF requests the recommendation of a finite group of key individuals who will be able to give some guidance to the NSF concerning investment of their education funding. They would also like some advice concerning the best educational and scientific approach to maximise the exposure of the public and funding agency officials to the on-going programs of mid-ocean ridge research.

#### *Discussion and action summary*

- The Biological Studies component of InterRidge

It was decided that the Biological Studies facet of InterRidge remain interwoven with the three principal scientific themes and that the Program Plan should reflect this. It was recognised that there should be greater representation of the biological research community on the Steering Committee and at meetings and workshops. D. Desbruyères will be asked to nominate an additional biologist as ad hoc member on the Steering Committee and future workshop and meeting announcements will target biologists as well as geoscientists. The difficulty of developing a plan for biological research within a geosciences dominated program was recognised and it was restated that the intent of creating the Biological Studies *Ad Hoc* Committee was to give biologists a venue in which to develop biological studies objectives and implementation plans which could be integrated into the InterRidge Program.

- Biological Sample Databank

The Steering Committee endorses the creation of an international databank of biological samples from hydrothermal vents and charges the Biological *Ad Hoc* Committee with the creation of a mechanism for exchange of samples.

- "Origins"

The Steering Committee recognises the value of this opportunity and requests to be kept informed of its development. R Lutz is charged with writing an announcement of opportunity for publication in the Fall/Winter issue of the *InterRidge News*.

## 7 Interaction with other organisations

### 7.1 Report of SCOR WG 99

A summary of the report presented by the Chair on behalf of M. Sinha. See Appendix F for the full text of the report.

#### *Discussion and action summary*

The Chair and Steering Committee formally thank M. Sinha for the effort he has put into setting up the SCOR WG 99.

- SCOR WG 99 History and Relevance

C. Langmuir raised the question as to the purpose of the SCOR WG 99 and expressed some doubt as to the relevance of any documentation produced by the Working Group and questioned the advisability of spending the funds required to support its meeting.

R. Detrick expressed agreement with C. Langmuir and suggested reducing the number of Working Group members from countries with major sea-going programs and increasing the number of members from those with minor communities which are not already involved with InterRidge.

D. Needham responded that establishment of this Working Group had taken three years and that at its inception, a link with SCOR was seen as particularly valuable. This is still considered to be the case in terms of attracting nations with relatively small deep-sea research programs to become Associate Members. In addition, several benefits may be gained by affiliation with SCOR by means of a working group. These benefits include international visibility, publicity and SCOR-InterRidge pamphlet circulated to an immense mailing list.

- Recommendation to Meso-Scale Working Group

The Steering Committee recommends that M. Sinha be advised of this discussion and that he take it into consideration in future activities of the SCOR WG 99.

### 7.2 FARA - C. Langmuir and D. Needham

The field programs for FARA are scheduled to finish in 1995. It was always planned to convene a symposium at the end of the Project. Funding has been granted by LDEO to hold a Ewing Symposium to mark the end of the Project in the Spring of 1996. This Symposium might take place in Iceland and be combined with field trips. It seems appropriate that this meeting not remain simply a FARA Symposium, but that it be organised as a FARA/InterRidge Meeting and provide a venue for presentation of all the results from investigation of the North Atlantic during the last 3-4 years. A published volume in the Ewing Series would result from the meeting. The FARA Co-Chairs request the opinion of the Steering Committee Members as representatives of their national programs, as to the acceptability and feasibility of such a proposal.

#### *Discussion and action summary*

- Recommendation to the FARA Co-Chair

R. Searle recommends that any firm decision wait on further consultation with the BRIDGE Community. The FARA Co-Chairs will consult with the national program heads concerning their national community's contribution and report back to the Steering Committee.

### 7.2 ODP

#### *InterRidge and ODP - R. Searle*

R. Searle as Chair of InterRidge made formal contact with B. Lewis, Chair of ODP earlier this year. This contact was most timely as ODP are in the process of drafting their Long-range Plan for the next 10 years. ODP is extremely keen to collaborate with programs such as InterRidge since

they are looking for new direction in which to steer ODP in its next phase of existence and would like to have the input of thematic programs, including InterRidge, to that document. R. Searle presented the structure and objective of the InterRidge Program at the P-COM Meeting in Cardiff this Spring. This presentation was very well received.

One specific action to be taken to increase ODP-InterRidge interaction is publication of respective columns or news items in the JOIDES Journal and InterRidge News. Such columns or news items have existed in the past and steps have been taken by the InterRidge Office to maintain this contact.

InterRidge perception of the requirements of "zero-age" drilling and the importance of developing that capability within ODP was presented. The P-COM gave the very clear response that ODP is a proposal-driven organisation. If InterRidge wants ODP to continue as a program and to develop on-axis drilling capabilities, the InterRidge community must produce and submit good quality proposals whether or not the tools to implement them exist at present.

H. Dick is considering convening a meeting on drilling the ridges and the oceanic crust. InterRidge's interest in co-organising or cosponsoring such a meeting was expressed to him. His reaction to collaboration with InterRidge was positive.

#### *ODP Historical Background - J. Fox*

Starting in 1989 there was a movement to create liaisons with thematic programs. InterRidge hadn't been constituted yet but RIDGE was asked to make a presentation. Once InterRidge got going, RIDGE dropped out. The Global Seismic Network is an example of another group asked to participate. On a yearly basis, P-COM has a presentation from each group involved.

Conceptually it was a good system but it failed to have any influence on drilling in any significant way. There still existed a misfit between the drilling objectives of the Lithosphere and Tectonics Panels and the inability of the drill to solve the problems identified by these Panels. This was largely because drilling programs were either technologically limited compared to the complexity of the geological environments and the task required to find a solution, or the data matrix into which the drill was placed was inherently two-dimensional in nature and did not provide constraint at the level that was needed to fully understand the drilling results.

Faced with drafting the Long-range Plan to look at the Program from 1998 to 2001 or 2, P-COM began to realise that the Program must change. Business as usual with a 30 year old program plan was insufficient for survival. One message that has clearly emerged is that one way to maximise the drilling results would be to develop more meaningful links with thematically-driven programs. Ultimately, this will improve the science that the ODP does. This is specifically pertinent to the Tectonics and Lithosphere Panels and to some degree convergent margins, fluxes and paleo oceanography.

In this context, the P-COM was charged with going beyond the informational meetings which had taken place in the past. The Chair of P-COM is presently putting together an outline of a Long-range Plan and creating a letter which will invite thematic groups like InterRidge to help define specific mechanisms by which we can influence drilling through these thematic programs.

The hope was that a draft would be available for presentation at this meeting but that was not possible. However, the 4-D characterisation of the oceanic crust experiment to be addressed at the end of September in an InterRidge workshop, will, hopefully, have as its final movement a crescendo of drilling legs to test and calibrate the geophysical and surface experiment that will have preceded it. This is an exciting opportunity for InterRidge to begin to factor in this magnificent facility. At the same time the capabilities of the InterRidge community and those cruises with InterRidge co-ordination, can lead to a data matrix which will better constrain the use of the drill. This is the opportunity to create a project in which the pre-drilling experiments are interwoven with drilling objectives.

We should be prepared to conduct a discussion by e-mail some time in late September or early October because the Long-range Plan working group of P-COM will meet in Washington to write a draft of the Long-range Plan which has to be on the desk of the Executive Committee in December. Time is extremely short. The InterRidge Steering Committee should start thinking of ways in which to influence this process.

#### *ODP and Active Processes*

Please see the Active Processes Working Group Report, Appendix E.

## 8 InterRidge Program Plan

It was noted that the Initial Program Plan has never been formally accepted. Several modifications to the text listed below were agreed upon by the Steering Committee. The version appearing in Appendix B was accepted by the Steering Committee as the definitive InterRidge Program Plan. It is intended that this document will not be further modified in future years, but will have an annual addendum attached, as has already done for 1993. At the end of each calendar year, the updated Co-Ordinator's report will become the yearly addendum to the Program Plan.

The terms "National Correspondent" and "National Representative" have caused some confusion. It was established that both these terms indicate the same person/function and that the term "National Correspondent" will be used in the future.

The term "Standing Committee" may impart too permanent an impression to bodies which may be ephemeral. The term "*Ad Hoc* Committee" will be used to designate temporary committees in the future. Biological Studies have been moved into the *Ad Hoc* Committees section.

Discussion as to whether InterRidge should continue to offer Associate Membership will be renewed at the 1995 Steering Committee Meeting in Kiel.

The following revised version of section 7.1 Membership, 7.2 InterRidge Office and 7.3 Steering Committee were accepted by the Steering Committee. Modifications made during this meeting are in **bold**.

### 7.1 Membership

Two types of membership in InterRidge are proposed, as follows:

- **Principal Member**: Guaranteed membership of Steering Committee for two voting representatives; responsibility and opportunity to host the InterRidge Office during the coming years; **guaranteed membership on all working groups, voting and proportional representation at all general InterRidge meetings; and entitlement to receive all information, newsletters and data catalogues.**
- **Associate Member**: Guaranteed membership of Steering Committee for one non-voting representative; **guaranteed membership on at least one working group, with total representation approximately in same proportion as Steering Committee membership; entitlement to representation at all general InterRidge meetings; and entitlement to receive all information and newsletters and data catalogues.**
- **Corresponding Member**: Entitlement to receive information, newsletters and data catalogues, on request.

"Principal" membership requires a higher level of support of InterRidge running costs than "Associate" membership. Each country will be asked to propose its own affiliation. **Countries may combine into consortia who would constitute a Principal Member.**

### 7.2 InterRidge Office

The functions of the InterRidge Office include preparing and publishing program documents; coordinating InterRidge planning activities, including meeting support; managing the program budget; and providing other support as required. Such an office would comprise several components: routine office operations, technical support, coordination of event detection and response, production of a newsletter (see Section 7.7), and an executive administrator and a program assistant. **The InterRidge Office will normally be sited at the institution of the Chair of the Steering Committee, who will have day-to-day responsibility for running the Office, subject to the overall approval of the Steering Committee.**

#### *Routine office operations:*

- Limited meeting support (documents and on-site co-ordination), with increased support in subsequent years
- Communications (telephone, fax, telex, mailings)
- Document production (meeting reports, program plans, newsletters)

#### *Technical support:*

- Development of database of cruise tracklines and station positions
- Creation of international directory of addresses and specialities of ridge researchers

*Co-ordination of event detection and response:*

- Co-ordination of fast-response procedures: potential participants, paths of authority, equipment locations, ship locations
- Co-ordination of computerized response package
- Co-ordination of RRIP development (see Section 4.3)

*Personnel:*

- Executive administrator (Co-Ordinator)
- Program assistant

*Rotation:*

The InterRidge Office and Chair shall normally rotate every three years. The Steering Committee shall choose the next host country and Steering Committee Chair on the basis of bids, including a projected budget, which they will invite from Principal Members

### **7.3 Steering Committee**

The InterRidge Steering Committee will co-ordinate and promote InterRidge activities. It will:

- define and from time to time update the Program Plan;
- propose and oversee specific InterRidge projects;
- consider and prioritise proposals for new program elements, workshops and other appropriate activities;
- liaise with the leaders of national ridge research programs;
- determine the membership of InterRidge and its working groups and committees;
- approve the InterRidge budget and oversee the operation of the InterRidge Office;
- select the InterRidge Chair and the host country for the InterRidge Office.

Membership of the Steering Committee will be determined annually, as follows:

- Each paid-up Principal Member nation will be entitled to two positions on the Steering Committee, of which one may be nominated by the member country, and the other will be chosen by agreement between the member country and the Steering Committee. It is desirable that the nominee be the head of the national program or be official representative of that program. These representatives will usually also act as the National Correspondent and his/her alternate (see 7.4). Either position may be temporarily taken by a replacement if the nominated member is unable to attend. In the case of the Member hosting the InterRidge Office, one of the Steering Committee positions shall go to the Chair and the other will normally be the National Correspondent.
- Each paid-up Associate Member nation will be entitled to one non-voting position on the Steering Committee, to be nominated by the Member Nation and agreed by the Steering Committee. This person will usually also act as the National Correspondent (see section 7.4). This position may be temporarily taken by a replacement if the nominated member is unable to attend.
- Additional members may be from time to time co-opted on the basis of their scientific expertise, affiliation to other international programmes, etc., to provide appropriate balance and coverage. Such members should total no more than four, or one third of the total Steering Committee, whichever is smaller.

No individual member, whether a National Correspondent or otherwise, may serve more than four consecutive years. Normally members will be expected to serve at least two years.

The Steering Committee will normally work by consensus. However, in the event of a vote, each principal member of the Steering Committee shall have one vote, except that in the case of a tie the Chair shall have an additional, casting vote.



