



to all our icdp friends

from **Marco Bohnhoff**,
icdp Executive Director



The SAG meeting finished at 0:30 a.m. Central European Time after 30+ hours during 3 intense days. SAG Chair Flavio Anselmetti (2nd left, top row), SAG Co-Chair Lisa Park Boush (3rd left, top row). Photo: ICDP

Despite the pandemic situation, the number of 2021 ICDP proposals remained on high level: eight full proposals, four workshop proposals, four pre-proposals and a first Land-to-Sea drilling proposal (responding to the newly established combined ICDP-IODP funding branch) were submitted by the January 15 deadline. ICDP's Science Advisory Group SAG convened virtually during March 16-18 for an in-depth scientific evaluation of the proposals. The ICDP Executive Committee and Assembly of Governors will hold their annual meetings online in late April to decide about the proposals. Flavio Anselmetti, SAG Chair during the last two years, will retire from this position by rotation at the end of this year. I wholeheartedly thank Flavio for his great engagement and efficient work as SAG Chair and wish him all the best for the future, within and beyond the ICDP family. At the same time we welcome our new SAG Chair Lisa Park Boush.

Drilling projects in China (Songliao Basin) and UK (JET) have been successfully completed even under the currently extremely challenging conditions for which I congratulate the PIs. Several ICDP projects are ready to start once the pandemic situation allows. These include the DOVE (Drilling Overdeepend Alpine Valleys), STAR (A Strainmeter Array along the Alto Tiberina Fault System) and BASE (Barberton Archean Surface Environments) while GRIND (Geological Research through Integrated Neoproterozoic Drilling) will continue in Namibia and start in Brazil. We will hear more about these projects at the upcoming ICDP-IODP Town Hall Meeting at the EGU meeting on April 27, but already now I do wish the PIs all success and best luck!



JET drilling in Prees completed

Congratulations to the JET project team lead by PI Steve Hesselbo: despite enhanced difficulties due to the pandemic, the team successfully conducted coring and logging operations near Prees in the Cheshire Basin (Shropshire, England) from October to December 2020 with well completion and abandonment in January 2021. Drilling at Prees reached a total depth of 656 m and recovered 114 cores of excellent quality and with high recovery rate. The team reached the project's goal by drilling through the complete Jurassic sequences and well into the Upper Triassic lacustrine red beds (Brooks Mill Mudstone) and, thus, achieved the primary objectives with regard to the Jurassic – Triassic boundary strata. Despite pandemic restrictions it was possible to assemble a core team of on-site scientists from Exeter, Leeds and Southampton universities, and the British Geological Survey. Core logging and scanning was conducted at the National Core Repository and Core Scanning Facility (CSF) in Keyworth, Nottingham, and will continue with detailed work in 2021.



Scientific drilling in Northeast China reached new milestone

The third phase of scientific drilling in the Songliao Basin comprised the borehole SK-3 in Nong'an County (Jilin Province, China). The hole reached a final depth of 3600 m with a cored length of 1607 m and retrieved 1592 m core (core recovery more than 99%). Drilling was completed on January 30, 2021. In total, the SK project consists now of four drill holes, with cores covering over 8,200 m of terrestrial sediments from Late Jurassic to Early Paleogene. Scientific drilling in the Songliao Basin aims at providing a high-precision, comprehensive chronostratigraphic framework to reconstruct the paleoclimate evolution of the northern mid-latitudes on multiple time scales. The project explores the coupling relationship between the formation of continental petroleum deposits and paleoclimate and paleoenvironmental change. SK-3 was jointly funded and supported by the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China, Jilin Oilfield Company and the International Continental Scientific Drilling Program ICDP. The SK cores are accessible to the international geoscience community for collaborative research.



SK-3 drill site in Northeast China Photo: Songliao Project



Upcoming ICDP activities: vEGU21

ICDP will be present at the virtual EGU General Assembly with the joint IODP-ICDP Session "Achievements and perspectives in scientific ocean and continental drilling" (Tuesday, April 27th, 13:30-17:00 CEST, UTC+2), followed by the ICDP-IODP Town Hall Meeting (April 27, 17:30-19:00 CEST). The Town Hall Meeting will be a great opportunity for networking. Meet ICDP and IODP program representatives and scientists; hear about program updates, and about running and future activities. The meeting is accessible at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83353290275>
Meeting-ID: 833 5329 0275
Code: drilling

Between April 22 and April 28 2021, the joint "Scientific Drilling IODP-ICDP" virtual booth will serve as a communication platform for news and views about scientific drilling on land and in the oceans. Webinars on current topics will be held each day between 12:45 and 13:30 CEST (UTC+2).

Stay safe, stay healthy, keep calm & drill
your icdp team from potsdam