

IODP Forum Terms of Reference

General Purpose

The IODP Forum is the custodian of the Science Plan and is a venue for exchanging ideas and views on the scientific progress of the Program. The Forum will also provide advice to IODP Facility Boards on Platform Provider activity.

Mandate

1. Assessing progress on achieving long-term objectives of the Science Plan.
 - a. The Forum will monitor and assess long-term and regional planning, and make recommendations to the individual Facility Boards.
 - b. The Forum Chair will report on the progress of the Program toward completion of the Science Plan to the respective Facility Boards.
2. Fostering progress and coordination of Facility Boards and Platform Providers and providing assistance where requested in select areas, such as:
 - a. Standardization of reporting efforts, including pre- and post-expedition publications.
 - b. Curation and storage of cores, including access to archive cores.
 - c. Planning and scoping of major projects.
 - d. Communication of need for non-standard activities to the scientific community. For example:
 - i. co-funding of drilling operations by commercial entities,
 - ii. rapid response drilling that might impact planned expeditions.
3. Fostering effectiveness of the IODP website by working with the Support Office.
4. Fostering synergistic collaborations with other organizations (e.g.,-scientific drilling/coring programs, seafloor observatory programs, etc.)
5. Recommending topics for workshops.
6. Advising/stimulating overarching public relations and educational activities.
7. Advising on ethical issues.

Participants

IODP Forum participation is open to representative from: all countries, consortia, or entities providing funds to platform operations, Program Member Offices, and the Science Support Office, as well as Facility Board chairs and SEP co-chairs. Other participants may include representatives from potential new partners in the Program and related scientific organizations interested in the Forum agenda.

Chair

The chair of the IODP forum should be selected for his/her scientific and managerial leadership and will be a well-recognized scientist who will be the face of the Program. The chair is expected to promote the scientific accomplishments of the Program at select scientific meetings, and to attend the meetings of the facility boards and SEP. The role will require some dedicated time, and the chair should be provided with

appropriate salary and logistical support (recommended level of support = 0.5 FTE). The chair serves for two years and will be selected by a panel of selected Forum participants through an open process.

Decisions

The Forum shall reach decisions by consensus.

Meetings

The Forum will commence with the start of the new Program on October 1, 2013. It will convene once annually to execute its mandate and assess progress of the Program toward completion of the Science Plan.