

Consensus statements arising from the IODP Forum meeting, Rome, 10-11 Oct 2021

Dick Kroon, Henk Brinkhuis, Nov 2021

- The Forum applauds the efforts made by NSF and other current IODP funding agencies to extend the current program through 2024. This extension will also compensate the reduced operations related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Forum greatly appreciates the announcement by NSF to acquire a new, global ranging non-riser drilling vessel following the divestment of the *JOIDES Resolution* in the next few years. The Forum acknowledges the extensive NSF acquisition process, including the assistance to NSF by USSSP, advised by USAC, and all other efforts in the determination of Science Mission Requirements for this new vessel.
- The Forum acknowledges the potential participation of IODP-China as a future platform provider in post-2024 scientific ocean drilling initiatives. The Forum encourages IODP-China to further develop plans in collaboration with international partners with reference to the 2050 Science Framework. The Forum applauds the current and planned investments by IODP-China in scientific ocean drilling in general.
- The Forum commends the efforts made by ANZIC, K-IODP and IODP-India for seeking continued financial support for scientific ocean drilling and offers assistance where possible.
- The Forum started to contemplate ways forward for post-2024 scientific ocean drilling. The Forum notes broad support for post-2024 continuation of internationally coordinated scientific ocean drilling, and the safeguarding of the legacy of the successive international scientific ocean drilling programmes (DSDP, ODP, the former IODP, and the current IODP) in all operations, including core curation, databasing, and related critical efforts.
- The Forum recognizes the need for organizing follow up meetings in the very near future to start to develop post-2024 plans for international scientific ocean drilling, guided by the new 2050 Science Framework, and including issues related to operations and logistics, proposal evaluation, core storage and database maintenance. This phase will culminate in the organization of a Forum overarching meeting at the (front) edge of the EGU General Assembly, Vienna, April 2022.
- The Forum applauds ECORD's efforts to conduct MSP expeditions beyond 2024. The Forum warmly received the ECORD report outlining plans, as presented by Gilbert Camoin, and commends the idea to further develop the MSP concept. The Forum agrees that an MSP-only phase guided by the 2050 Science Framework may fill a non-riser drilling gap due to the potential decommission of the *JOIDES Resolution* in 2025.