Detailed Planning Group on Asian Monsoon and Cenozoic Tectonic History

1) General Purpose
SPC and SSEP recognize the high scientific value and societal relevance of making progress on understanding how tectonic evolution and uplift of the Himalaya and Tibet region affect the monsoonal system, including rates of uplift, erosion and their relationship with the global climatic evolution, such as presented by Mission Monsoon (Proposal 713MP) and its component proposals.

Following SSEP recommendation 0705-4, SPC agrees to provide the following terms of reference to form a Detailed Planning Group (DPG) including the following detailed charges:

2) Mandate
The DPG is charged to develop an optimal plan to advance the understanding of the Asian monsoon and Cenozoic tectonic history that coordinates, organizes and prioritizes a drilling plan, the erosion and uplift proxies to be used, and an integration of post-cruise science. Specifically, the DPG shall identify how the current strong source-to-sink component originally presented in Proposal 713-MP ("Mission Monsoon") can be retooled to more clearly identify the proxy toolbox that will allow differentiation between uplift and erosion on one side and monsoon on the other.

It should also identify and consider technical issues of deep drilling and analysis, within non-scientific constraints such as necessary permits, budgetary constraints, and potential political complications.

3) Scope:
The DPG should focus on existing proposals:

552 – Bengal Fan
595 – Indus Fan
618 – SE Asian Shelf
683 – East Asia Topography and Monsoon

and adhere to the guiding principles that the prioritization advanced by the DPG should not hold back proposals that are already scheduled.

4) Outreach and Education:
The DPG should include and identify outreach and education possibilities and make recommendations as to their feasibility and implementation. It should include specific statements as to the extremely high societal relevance of the project.

5) Climate Modeling:
The SPC recognizes the importance of advancing climate modeling within the scope of the monsoon system and this DPG and charges the DPG with including input from climate modelers. The DPG should take modeling results into consideration for their site

prioritization and evaluate how predicted drilling results will bear on predictions that arise from climate models.

6) Timeline:
The DPG is charged to provide SPC with an interim report that describes initial implementation principles and site prioritization in time for the March 2008 SPC meeting. A full report, following the example of the previous Hotspot Geodynamics DPG, should be submitted to SPC in time for the August 2008 meeting.

7) Composition of the DPG:
The DPG chairperson shall be from outside the proponent group of Mission Monsoon and its component proposals. The membership of the DPG shall comprise members from both the proponent group as well a diverse group from outside the proponents, including climate modelers and formal liaisons to a designated subset of SPC. It should also seek advice from IODP-MI and the IOs as to the practical feasibilities.

8) Decisions:
The Monsoon DPG shall make decisions by consensus.

9) Chair:
The SPC shall appoint the chair of the Asian Monsoon and Cenozoic Tectonic History DPG.

10) Liaisons:
The SPC may appoint a liaison to the Asian Monsoon and Cenozoic Tectonic History DPG