

Proposed Interim Science Advisory Structure (iSAS) for the Transition to IODP

- interim Pollution Prevention and Safety Panel (iPPSP) -

The Interim Science Advisory Structure for the IODP

The interim Science Advisory Structure (iSAS) is a joint working group representing JOIDES and the OD21 Science Advisory Committee. The functions of iSAS are: 1) to plan for the Integrated Ocean Drilling Program (IODP); 2) to facilitate the transition from the Ocean Drilling Program (ODP) into the IODP; 3) to make recommendations on the science advisory structure for IODP; 4) to develop guidelines related to evaluations of science proposals, site surveys and form of drilling proposals submitted to IODP; and 5) to examine, review and nurture potential drilling proposals for IODP. Final recommendations for the scientific drilling program of IODP will be developed once IODP begins in 2003.

The iSAS committees, working groups, and panels will report and direct their advice through the interim Planning Committee (iPC) to the International Working Group (IWG) of IODP. Representation on most iSAS panels and committees will be proportional to the optimal international participation in IODP (1/3 Japan, 1/3 United States, 1/3 other IWG members) and will be restricted to IWG members seeking full IODP participation. Members of iSAS committees and panels will be nominated by JOIDES and the OD21 Science Advisory Committee. To the extent possible, it is expected that JOIDES nominations will be consistent with the membership on corresponding JOIDES panels and committees. JOIDES and the OD21 Advisory Committee will confer and consider appropriate disciplinary balance and expertise in making their nominations to IWG. The term of membership on iSAS panels and committees will be until 1 October 2003 (unless replaced before that time by the IWG member nations they represent). The iSAS is open to suggestions and proposals from the entire scientific community, and its plans will be open to continued review and discussion.

1. Interim Pollution Prevention and Safety Panel (iPPSP)

1.1 General Purpose. The general purpose of the interim Pollution Prevention and Safety Panel (iPPSP) is to provide independent advice to the iPC with regard to safety and pollution hazards that may exist because of general and specific geologic circumstances of proposed drill sites, and advice on what drilling technology should be applied in order to avoid drilling hazards.

1.2 Mandate. This panel will review all drilling proposed in IODP and advise on safety requirements and appropriate technology needed to meet these requirements. All drilling operations involve the chance of accident or pollution. The principal geologic safety and pollution hazard in ocean drilling is the possible release of substantial quantities of high-pressure fluids and volatiles

including hydrocarbons from subsurface reservoir strata. However, the riser capability of the IODP will permit application of blow out prevention (BOP) technology to mitigate this hazard in a number of geological environments. In other environments, such as most of the deep-sea regions, the risk of hydrocarbon release can be reduced or eliminated by careful planning and proper site surveys.

Those who develop IODP drilling plans and select drilling sites are initially responsible to carefully assess sites in terms of safety and indicate the appropriate mode of drilling for each site. The iPPSP independently reviews each site to determine if and how drilling operations can be conducted safely.

The preliminary site survey information and the operational plan are examined for each site. Advice is communicated in the form of:

1. site approval, for riser/BOP or non-riser drilling,
2. lack of approval, or
3. technical advice for relocation or amendment

Approval is based on the judgment of the Panel that a proposed site can be safely drilled in light of the available technology, information, and planning.

1.3 Meetings. The panel will usually meet twice a year, and will normally meet right before or after of the JOIDES PPSP meeting, as approved by the iPC Co-Chairs.

1.4 Membership. Members of the iPPSP are specialists who can provide expert advice on the safe drilling of proposed drill sites, including sites in hydrocarbon prone areas. Members of the iPPSP are primarily selected on the basis of this specific expertise, with a view toward a fair representation of IWG members as a second priority. Membership is determined by iPC based on nominations from IWG countries. Panel membership, not to exceed 15, should be maintained as small as is allowed by the range of expertise necessary to meet mandate requirements.

1.5 Liaison. The iPPSP maintains liaison with the interim Site Survey Panel, and a designated iSSP member attends its meetings. Representatives from the main drilling operators will also be invited to attend the meetings. The iPC Co-Chairs or a designate from iPC attends as a liaison.

1.6 Chair. The Chair is appointed by iPC.