



## **Quo Vadis ICDP? The Science Plan of the International Continental Scientific Drilling Program.**

Brian Horsfield

German Research Centre for Geosciences, Section 4.3, Potsdam, Germany (horsf@gfz-potsdam.de)

The rocks and fluids of our ever-changing planet contain heat, energy, and life as well as archived records of what has gone before. These precious relicts and living systems need to be probed, collected, monitored and analyzed. The science results obtained cover the spectrum of the earth sciences from climate change, natural hazards and earth resources to the origins of life on Earth. The need to drill has never been greater, and this requires improved coordination between the marine, terrestrial and ice-coring communities and the research and private sector communities, effectively addressing the needs of our growing population for energy, sustenance, and quality of life.

The ICDP is an infrastructure for scientific drilling that facilitates outstanding science. It is the only international platform for scientific research drilling in terrestrial environments. ICDP brings together scientists and stakeholders from 24 nations to work together at the highest scientific and technical niveaux. More than 30 drilling projects and 55 planning workshops have been supported to date. It is an efficient organisation, run according to the philosophy “lean and mean”, with an average annual budget of about \$5 million, and further third-party drilling expenditures that more than doubles this yearly investment.

Here we report on ICDP’s 2013 Science Conference “Imaging the Past to Imagine our Future”, held November 11-14, 2013 in Potsdam whose goal was to set the new ICDP Science Plan in motion. New insights into geoprocesses and the identification of hot topics were high on the agenda, and debated in closed sessions, via posters and through oral presentations, and where appropriate dovetailed with socio-economic challenges. The conference was used to strengthen and expand our ties with member countries, and to debate incorporating industry into selected ICDP strategic activities where it makes sense to do so (ICDP remains science-driven). In addition, the conference paved the way for outreach measures to media and policy makers. A White Paper is currently in preparation, and a Special Issue in a leading scientific journal is also underway that will provide a snapshot of the scientific framework within which ICDP operates.