



INTERNATIONAL

16 February 2007

Dear Colleagues,

This is a preliminary announcement to inform you that GEOTRACES plans to hold a series of planning workshops this year.

Now that the GEOTRACES intercalibration effort is in motion, the international GEOTRACES Scientific Steering Committee is turning its attention to planning the ocean sections that will form the backbone of the program, and to the modeling and data management activities that must precede the main field program. Adopting a strategy like that used to plan the WOCE program, GEOTRACES will hold a series of planning workshops later this year, one each for the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian oceans, as well as one that will focus on model/data synergy.

Many of the scientific objectives for the ocean sections are described in the GEOTRACES Science Plan (available on the web at www.geotraces.org). The purpose of the basin planning workshops is to refine those scientific objectives, to place them into a framework of specific sections, and to identify nations that are prepared to take the lead on carrying out those sections. The SSC will use the output from the workshops when it meets in November to draft a coherent global plan for the GEOTRACES program, to be implemented over the next decade.

In light of the ambitious pace of planning over the coming year, we are disseminating this information now, even though the final details of the workshops have not been set, to allow interested individuals as much time as possible to prepare to attend. Tentatively, we are planning to hold the Pacific Ocean workshop in Hawaii in late June to early July, the Atlantic Ocean workshop in Oxford (UK) in September, the Indian Ocean workshop in India in October, and the model/data synergy workshop in Germany in September.

As soon as the dates and location of the workshops are finalized, this information will be passed along to the GEOTRACES community.

Each meeting will be open to any interested scientist. SCOR anticipates providing some matching funds to cover travel expenses for participants from developing nations and will have a limited amount of funding available for speakers, but other participants will need to support their own expenses to attend the meetings. Unfortunately, GEOTRACES does not have resources to cover travel expenses for other participants.

Questions may be addressed to GEOTRACES@ldeo.columbia.edu.

Best wishes,

Bob Anderson and Gideon Henderson, co-chairs, GEOTRACES SSC

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