

InterRidge -www.interridge.org

Chair: Colin Devey, Leibniz-Institut, Kiel, Germany

InterRidge (IR) is concerned with promoting all aspects of mid-ocean ridge research (their study, use and protection) which can only be achieved by international cooperation. At present IR is supported by 5 full-member nations (UK, France, Germany, Japan, USA, each paying US\$20.000 p.a.) and 6 associate member nations (Canada, India, China, Korea, Norway, Portugal, each paying US\$5.000), 17 other nations have corresponding nation status, 2700 individuals are on the mailing list.

IR has four main functions: (a) build and maintain an international ridge-research community; (b) identify, through its working groups and the workshops and conferences they organize, the important problems in ridge research and develop program plans for their solution; (c) act as a representative body for ridge scientists in policy discussions; (d) through education and outreach communicate the importance of ridge research to the general public and decision makers worldwide.

IR, in existence since 1993, has just begun its second decade. The science plan for this next decade identifies the themes (represented by working groups, the mainstay of InterRidge) that will constitute the core of research during this period:

Theme	Objective	Start	WG-Chair
Ultralow-spreading ridges	concentrate on the particular scientific and coordination problems posed by ultra-slow ridges	2004	Jon Snow, Mainz
Ridge-hotspot interaction	better understand the physical and chemical interactions between mantle plumes and mid-ocean ridges and their effects on seafloor geological, hydrothermal, and biological processes	2000	Jian Lin, WHOI Jérôme Dymont, CNRS
Back-arc spreading systems	summarize past work on Back-Arc Basins and coordinate future studies	1995	Sang-Mook Lee, SNU, Korea
Mid-oceanic ridge ecosystems	increase international collaboration in hydrothermal biological studies and work on integrating ridge-crest biological and geological research	1994	Françoise Gaill, CNRS Nicole Dublier, Bremen
Monitoring and observatories	promote long term ocean bottom observatories. Establish a long-term observatory in the Atlantic	2002	Javier Escartin, IPG Paris Ricardo Santos, Azores
Deep earth sampling	strengthen the ties to, and use of, global deep earth sampling facilities such as IODP, ICDP etc.	2004	Benoit Ilsedefonse, Montpellier
Global exploration	address the need for more basic data about many of the world's spreading axes		<i>to be announced</i>
Biogeochemical interactions at deep-sea vents	address questions of biogeochemical interactions in different MOR and BAB environments and link scientists and their needs for technologies and sampling time	2004	Nadine le Bris, IFREMER