

EMCOL
FIFTH MONTHLY MEETING
Minutes

The meeting was convened in Palaeontology Laboratory on 27 October 2005 at 13:00 with the following agenda:

1. EMCOL project and field activities
2. Laboratory renovation activities
3. Equipment purchase activities
4. Other matters

1. EMCOL project and field activities

Lisa Doner informed the meeting that it has been an active summer for lake studies involving coring and sediment trap work in four different lakes in western Turkey.

- Lisa was involved in coring and sediment trap deployment in the Büyük Çekmece and Terkos lakes for her NSF project. She successfully recovered several cores up to about 3 m length from Büyük Çekmece lake and more than 5 m long cores from Terkos lake using EMCOL's platform and corer.
- Lisa Doner also instructed and helped Özlem Bulkan, a graduate student of Istanbul University, to recover cores from Göl Marmara (Manisa) using EMCOL's platform and corer.
- Two cores each exceeding 5 m length were recovered from Iznik Lake for a collaborative study between ITU-EMCOL, Bonn University and Alfred Wegener Institute. In addition Lisa has deployed 7 sediment traps in the lake

Namık Çağatay summarized the marine geology work carried out during the last summer:

- Field work was carried during 10 September-1 October, 2005 first the first marine project of EMCOL "Earthquake Risk Assessment in the Marmara Sea" in Gulf of Saros, northern shelf of Marmara Sea (off Çekmece, Prince's Islands-Tuzla), Izmit Gulf and Gemlik Gulf, using the Italian R/V Urania. Namık Çağatay, Naci Görür, Hülya Kurt, Caner Imren, Kadir Eriş, Sena Akçer and Emre Damcı from ITU-EMCOL, together with Italian scientists, participated in the cruise and collected high resolution shallow seismic (chirp), multi-beam bathymetric, and multi-channel seismic reflection (in Gemlik Gulf only) data and sediment cores. Different groups in EMCOL have started processing these data and the cores to achieve the objectives of the project.
- Namık Çağatay attended a planning meeting of the IAEA project "Environmental assessment of the eastern Mediterranean" in Pula Croatia during 10-15 October, 2005. It was decided in the planning meeting that the IAEA support a 15-day cruise in the Marmara and Aegean Seas in September 2007 with the involvement of EMCOL. Together with pollution studies, the project will also have research objectives concerning the use radionuclide techniques for dating past earthquake events in sediment cores. The project programme includes a training course in 2006 and IAEA fellowships. Within the project's fellowship programme, it will be possible to train an early stage EMCOL scientist in the radioisotope dating techniques using gamma spectrometer measurements.

2. Laboratory renovation activities

Gökhan Şans and Namık Çağatay informed the meeting about the delays in the renovation of the EMCOL's laboratory and office space. The contracting company was reminded the timing of the the contract for the last time. The company supervisor informed EMCOL that except for

the cabinets and benches, all the contract work be completed in the EMCOL labs and office by November 3, 2005 and all work will be finalized by 15 November.

Fitting of new selves in the EMCOL' Core Storage Room has been recently completed. The cores will be systematically stored on the new shelves under the supervision of Nilgün Okay.

3. Equipment Purchase

- Namık Çağatay informed that the Cox Analytical constructing Itrax Core Scanner has informed EMCOL that the scanner will be delivered before the end of the year. The company also asked if EMCOL will send a representative for the factory check. After some discussion on advantages and disadvantages of attending the factory check, it was decided not to send anybody to Sweden, unless a recommendation is made by the Woods Hole scientists for the attendance based on their experience.

- Lisa Doner, Ummuhan Sancar and Emre Damci informed that paper work for the purchase of Tripod, CTD and freeze dryer has been completed.

- Emin Demirbağ informed that he is ready to start the formal procedures with ITU Doner Sermaye İşletmesi for the subbottom profiler (Bathy 2000P Chirp System, ODEC).

Purchasing status of other equipment is as follows:

- TOC and IC analyzer: a decision has to be made between two manufacturers: Shimadzu and Elementar. Namık Çağatay, Lisa Doner and Remzi Akkök will meet and reach a conclusion on this issue.

- Grain size analyzer: a new proforma invoice is needed for this piece of equipment. This will be requested by Lisa Doner.

- Bench top centrifuge: A quotation has been obtained from Ant Analytical for an Eppendorf brand. This has to be studied and decided by Lisa Doner.

- Weighing balance: A quotation has been obtained from "Ant Analytical" for a Sartorius brand. This has to be studied and a decision has to be made by Lisa and Remzi Akkök.

- Core logger: We may have to delay the purchase of this major piece of equipment until the earlier part of second year of the project, because of insufficient funds.

- Core photography set up: It was decided that Can Genç design a practical set up and have it manufactured in the Industrial Complex in Levent.

Namık Çağatay urged the EMCOL task leaders to review and start the purchasing of the equipment in their labs as soon as possible.

4. Other matters

Lisa Doner pointed out that EMCOL should actively participate in the Lake Van project presently being carried out between ITU and German institutes. It was agreed to meet and discuss the matter with the Turkish Coordinator of the project, Nüzhet Dalfes (ITU). It was also agreed that efforts should be made to involve EMCOL in possible future ICDP projects in Van and Iznik lakes and make EMCOL the centre for storage and analyses of the recovered cores. Some task raised a need of a large core storage facility and even a separate EMCOL building. Some EMCOL members suggested that a search should be made for a sponsor to financially support the construction of an EMCOL building.

The meeting was adjourned at 14:30.