

1 December 2005

EMCOL
SIXTH MONTHLY MEETING
Minutes

The meeting was convened in the Palaeontology Museum on 1 December 2005 at 13:00 with the following agenda:

1. EMCOL project and field activities
2. EMCOL students recruitment
3. Laboratory renovation activities
4. Equipment procurement activities
5. Other matters

1. EMCOL project and field activities

Namık Çağatay informed the meeting about the following marine project activities of EMCOL:

- EMCOL's first funded project, "*Earthquake risk assessment in the Marmara Sea*" supported by Istanbul Municipality, is progressing well; the first progress report has been completed by the EMCOL project team and will be submitted to the Municipality today.
- EMCOL is planning to take part in a new project, "*Study of natural and anthropogenic risks in ISKI's (Istanbul Water and Sewerage Works) fresh water reservoirs*" funded by ISKI itself. If realized, EMCOL will carry out water and sediment sampling and study sediment fluxes, sedimentation rates, and in the coastal reservoirs the possible past tsunami records.
- Another possible future project for EMCOL, "*A seafloor observatory to monitor the North Anatolian Fault beneath the Marmara Sea*", involves deployment of OBSs, creep meters, GPS, pore pressure instruments, methane sniffers and sediment traps. It is expected to be funded by the City Council of İstanbul and Turkish Government. The main aim of the project is to monitor the microseismicity and possible deformation, and to determine if the North Anatolian Fault segments close to Istanbul are locked or creeping. Collaboration will be made with scientists from Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory (Columbia University) and Scripps Oceanographic Institution.
- A STREP proposal "*Microseismicity and radon real time monitoring in the marine environment: MIRAMARE*" was submitted to FP6 (Proposal No. FP6-036944) on 4th November 2005. In this proposal EMCOL is one of the six partners, undertaking the project activities in the Sea of Marmara.

Lisa Doner informed that she, as an EMCOL representative, together with biologists from Middle East Technical University, submitted a research proposal to TUBITAK to study the present and past environmental changes in different lakes along a N-S transect in western Turkey. The proposal is in an mature stage of evaluation by TUBITAK with a high probability of being funded.

2. EMCOL students recruitment

The difficulties in finding PhD students for the EMCOL were discussed. So far only two of the four EMCOL doctoral student positions have been filled (by Emre Damcı and Sena Akçer). Considering that Sena Akçer will be leaving to join Eurasian Institute of Earth Sciences as a research assistant, EMCOL will still have 3 EMCOL positions and two TUBITAK positions available. After some discussion it was decided to consider also MSc students for the available positions during the applicant evaluations in February 2006.

3. Laboratory renovation activities

The laboratory renovation activities are finally appear to be coming to an end, with only the climate system, floor fitting, benches and cubboards to be fitted. According to the construction company, they will complete all the work by 15th December 2005.

The cooling unit in EMCOL' Core Storage Room has been serviced. The cores has been systematically stored in the the Core Storage Room after fitting of the new shelves.

4. Equipment procurement activities

A review of the equipment purchase activities was made:

- The Itrax Core Scanner is being constructed by “Cox Analytical” of Sweden. The equipment is expected to arrive and installed no later than January 2006. Based on input from Liviu Giossan of Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, a visit by an EMCOL representative to Sweden for the factory check of the Core Scanner will not be necessary.
- Payment for the purchase of Uwitec Tripod and CTD probe has been made and these equipment are expected to arrive FOB within the next 5 weeks.
- Freeze-dryer has been ordered from Özyürek A.Ş., Ankara. The payment will be made on arrival of the equipment in the EMCOL lab in about 6 weeks.
- TOC analyzer, micro-balance and bench-top centrifuge has been ordered from “Ant Teknik” (Istanbul). The instruments are expected to be in the EMCOL's lab in about five weeks.
- The sediment grain size analyzer (Analysette) has been ordered FOB. It is expected to arrive within five to six weeks.
- A proforma invoice for the subbottom profiler (Bathy 2000P Chirp System, ODEC) has been received. The quoted price (67,000 USD) including three-days training is outside the budgeted cost for this instrument in the EMCOL project. The price will be negotiated with company. If necessary, another company will be contacted.
- Vibracorer can be ordered during the first year of the EMCOL project from the available project funds.
- Namık Çağatay will contact Coast Safety and Ship Rescue General Directorate for the long-term assignment of one of their 7.5 m boat to the EMCOL use. If the request is accepted, EMCOL will only have to acquire a diesel engine and a trailer from the project budget.
- MST Core logger will be purchased after May 2006 when the new FP6 project funds become available from the second year project budget.

- Can Genç and Gökhan Şans have designed a practical set up for the core photography. After a final review of the design it will be manufactured in the Industrial Complex in Levent.

5. Other matters

- MTA general Directorate will be receiving their Chirp-Subbottom Profiler System. The field training for the use of this equipment will be held in 12-14 December 2005. Emin Demirbag and Caner Imren will be participating the training exercise.

- A team of German geophysicists working in the Lake Van project will be visiting ITU and EMCOL on 6-7 December 2005. A meeting will be held with them to discuss the initiative to submit a International Continental Drilling programme (ICDP) project for Lake Van. It is agreed that EMCOL should be a key player in such a project.

- EMCOL project office will have to be furnished with office furniture and equipment (computers, a printer, scanner and a photocopier). Can Genç, Emin Demirbağ and Caner İmren and other EMCOL scientists will decide on the office equipment requirements.

- A poster paper on EMCOL will be submitted to EGU meeting to be held in Vienna in April 2006. Namık Çağatay will send the extended abstract he submitted to the Clean Black Sea Meeting in Varna last June, for review and input by the EMCOL scientists.

- EMCOL Web-site will be updated by inputs from EMCOL task leaders and scientists. In the new updated version EMCOL task leaders and project activities will be introduced and the call for EMCOL scholarships will be updated.

The meeting was adjourned at 14:30.