

EMCOL
SEVENTH MONTHLY MEETING
Minutes

The meeting was convened in the Palaeontology Museum at 14:00 on 28 December 2005 with the following agenda:

1. EMCOL project and field activities
2. Review of EMCOL laboratory space and student office renovation
3. Review of equipment purchasing activities
4. Research assistant recruitments for EMCOL
5. Other matters

1. EMCOL field and project activities:

The following items were reported under this heading:

- A meeting was held on 7th December with geophysicists from Bremen University about the initiative for an ICDP (International Continental Drilling Programme) project proposal in Lake Van. A workshop is scheduled in Van in June 6-9, 2006 for discussing the proposal. EMCOL is invited to participate in the workshop. The Turkish Coordinator of Lake Van project, Nüzhet Dalfes, has corresponded with the German Coordinator Thomas Litt (Bonn University) about EMCOL's full involvement in this project and Thomas has responded positively. Thomas Litt will visit EMCOL in March for discussions on the ICDP project proposal and on the ongoing research on Lake Van.
- Lisa Doner and Mustafa Toker will submit a proposal to TÜBİTAK on Lake Van. The main aim of this project is to map ground water and gas seepages, tracing the source and age of the records of the past explosive volcanic activity in the Lake Van sediments. The project budget will include the purchase of a side-scan sonar.
- The STREP proposal "*Microseismicity and radon real time monitoring in the marine environment: MIRAMARE*", submitted to FP6 (Proposal No. FP6-036944) on 4th November 2005, has been recently evaluated by the commission services. Unfortunately the proposal has not pass all the evaluation thresholds. It was decided by the project partners, including EMCOL, to develop the proposal further in view of the critics and to resubmit it to a future EC-FP project call.
- The project proposal submitted to ISKI (Istanbul Water and Sewerage Administration), "*Study of natural and anthropogenic risks in the ISKI's (Istanbul Water and Sewerage Administration) fresh water reservoirs*" has been accepted for funding. EMCOL will be involved in the project work, studying the sedimentation and siltation rates, sediment flux, salt water intrusion and the records of the past tsunami records in coastal reservoirs.

2. Review of laboratory renovation and EMCOL's project office

- The air conditioning system has been installed in the EMCOL's laboratories and students' office.
- UPSs has been installed in the core analysis and geochemistry-sedimentology laboratories.
- The laboratory floor has been covered with proper floor material.

- The benches has been brought to the laboratories.
- The construction company has promised to complete the remaining jobs (fitting of bench tops, fume hoods, water filtration equipment, sinks and taps, mud tanks, proper three-phase plugs) by 5 January 2006.
- A price quotation has been obtained for office furniture for the EMCOL's students' office. The order will be placed soon.

3. Review of equipment purchases

- Most of our lab and field equipment, including freeze dryer, TOC analyzer, particle-size analyzer, electronic balance, centrifuge, tripod and CTD, will arrive in late January-early February 2006. The instruments will be installed and training sessions will be given for TOC and particle-size analyzers.
- Subbottom chirp profiler: SyQwest has made a substantial discount to bring the cost of their Bathy2000P system within the EMCOL's budget range. We are expecting a similar discount from GeoAcoustics Chirp II system. According to the response from GeoAcoustics, we will make a decision between the two systems.
- Boat: We will examine the catalogs obtained from the boat show and contact the companies for more details about specifications and prices.
- Vibrocorer. Rossfelder company has been contacted for their VT-1 and P-3 systems. A decision will be made according to the needs and prices between the two systems.
- More information on differential GPS system will be obtained from Kerim Sarıkacak of MTA and Serdar Özalaybey of MAM-TÜBİTAK.
- Core photography set up: Gökhan Şans has prepared a technical drawing of the set up. It will be studied and submitted to a workshop for manufacture.

4. Research assistant recruitments for EMCOL

The positions for EMCOL grants for graduate studentships will continue to be announced on the Chamber of Turkish Geological Engineers. The review of the applications will be made in Middle of January 2006.

5. Other matters

- An abstract has been prepared by Namık Çağatay for the EGU (European Geosciences Union) meeting in Vienna on 2-7 April 2006, for the purpose of introducing EMCOL to the scientific community. The poster paper on EMCOL will be presented to Session OS11: *Mediterranean Sea: a laboratory for interdisciplinary studies and climate research*. The poster will be prepared in March after the installation of the equipment in the EMCOL labs. This will be an important activity under WP5: Brokerage events.
- An oral paper presentation on EMCOL will be made at the annual "Geological Congress of Turkey", organized by Chamber of Turkish Geological Engineers in Ankara on 20-24 March 2006. Nilgün Okay will present the paper. This will also be an important activity under WP5, informing the Turkish earth-science community about EMCOL.

- One other activity under WP5 will be the preparation of an EMCOL brochure in late February 2006 for distribution in various relevant scientific meetings (e.g. EGU, Geological Congress of Turkey).
- The Advisory committee meeting is set on 19-20 April 2006.
- Namık Çağatay will initiate the training of laboratory teams, an important task of EMCOL project under WP4, by writing to various institutions including Southampton Oceanography Centre, Bremen University and Alfred-Wegener-Institute for Polar and Marine Research in Bremerhaven.

The meeting was adjourned at 15:45.