

1 February 2006

EMCOL
EIGHT MONTHLY MEETING
Minutes

The meeting was convened in the Palaeontology Museum on 1 February 2006 at 10:30 with the following agenda:

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

1. EMCOL project activities

The following project activities concerning EMCOL were reported:

- Namik Çağatay informed the meeting that the ESONET NoE (The European Seafloor Observatory Network) project proposal preparation is underway. The Marmara Sea is chosen as one area of study with EMCOL as a partner in the project proposal. We have provided the requested information on EMCOL to the coordinator (Roland Person of Ifremer) and the task leaders. Namik Çağatay will write up the Marmara Sea part of the proposal.
- Project “*Study of natural and anthropogenic risks in ISKI’s (Istanbul Water and Sewerage Works) Elmalı Reservoir*” will be funded by ISKI. EMCOL will carry out sediment coring, sediment trap studies, core analysis and pore water extraction from the cores. The objectives are to study mainly the sediment fluxes (total sediment, organic and inorganic, carbonate) and sedimentation rates.
- Lisa Doner informed that the project proposal to study the environmental changes in different lakes along a N-S transect in western Turkey will be funded by TÜBİTAK. This project will be carried out with biologists from Middle East Technical University.
- Lisa, together with Caroline Davies of University of Missouri Kansas City, submitted a NSF project proposal “Relative Effects of Environment and Climate in Tectonic Lakes.” The study will involve Sapanca and Iznik Lake, and will use EMCOL’s core analyses and field equipment facilities.

2. Laboratory renovation activities

The laboratory renovation activities have finally been completed. The only work to be done is electrical earthing of the power outlets in the labs. This item was brought to our attention by Cox Analytical, the I-trax core scanner manufacturers, This work will be completed within a few days before the arrival of the I-trax core scanner and other lab equipment.

EMCOL’s students’ office has been fitted with desks and book shelves. Computers and other related office equipment will be fitted in the lab in two weeks time.

3. Equipment procurement activities

A review of the equipment purchase activities was made:

- Uwitec Tripod has been received in EMCOL.
- The Itrax Core Scanner will be delivered and installed in the Core Analysis Lab in February 2006. Subsequently, training will be given by the manufacturer company on the use of the equipment.
- Freeze-dryer is expected to be delivered by Özyürek A.Ş., (Ankara) mid February 2006.
- TOC analyzer, micro-balance and bench-top centrifuge will be delivered by “Ant Teknik” (Istanbul) in February, except for the solid sample unit of the TOC analyzer, which may be delayed for a couple of weeks.
- The sediment grain size analyzer (Analysette) has been ordered FOB. It is expected to arrive within February or early March 2006.
- A proforma invoice for the subbottom profiler (Chirp II) was delivered by Geoacoustics. The cost of this equipment is more than 50,000 pound and outside the EMCOL budget. The other system (Bathy 2000P Chirp System, ODEC) will probably be purchased after receiving some more information from the manufacturer concerning the software update and the availability of the single frequency option.
- After consultation with Mahir Vardar, it was decided to order Vibracorer model WT-1. Lisa Doner will take care of ordering this equipment.
- Emre Damci, in consultation with Emin Demirbağ and Caner İmren, is trying to find a suitable, 6-7 m fiberglass boat for nearshore marine and lake studies. The information from the Coast Safety and Ship Rescue General Directorate to obtain their 7.5 m boat, is not encouraging, because of the new government rules on transfer of goods between different organisations.
- Can Genç and Gökhan Şans will soon provide the technical drawings of the core photography set up. This will then be used for manufacturing the set up in the Industrial Complex in Levent.

4. Training activities in European Core Facilities

Requests were made to the following institutions for short training visits:

- a) GeoForschungsZentrum Potsdam
- b) IODP core repository Bremen
- c) Southampton Oceanography Centre
- d) Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research Bremerhaven

Positive responses were obtained from the first two institutions. A trip of 6 persons from EMCOL (Namık Çağatay, Can Genç, Nigün Okay, Lisa Doner, Emre Damcı and Ummuhan Sancar) will visit these two facilities between 13-17 March 2006. The main objective is to see the operation and applications of the major core analysis equipment, mainly the core scanner and core logger, as well as obtain information about administrative procedures of core analyses.

5. EMCOL students recruitment

New applications including 3 geologists (Gül Sürmelihiñdi, Demet Biltekin, Rakia Meister) and one geophysicist (Çađrı İmamođlu) have been received. Rakia Meister is a MSc Climate change student in University of East Anglia. The committee will meet in mid-February to evaluate the files of the new applicants.

5. Other matters

- The two papers to introduce EMCOL to Turkish and International scientific community have both been accepted. The scientific meetings in which the papers will be presented are : 1) The EGU meeting to be held in Vienna in 2-7 April 2006, and 2) JMO's (Chambers of Geological Engineers) "Geological Congress of Turkey" to be held in Ankara during 20-24 March 2006. .

- EMCOL Web-page has been thoroughly updated by Can Genç using inputs from EMCOL coordinator, task leaders and scientists. The web-page now includes detailed information on EMCOL's project activities, EMCOL's committees, and announcements.

-Emin Demirbađ will participate in the trial sessions of Caner MTA general Directorate's Chirp-Subbottom Profiler System in Marmaris later this month. This experience will be important for the operation of EMCOL's subbottom profiler system.

- Emin Demirbađ has applied for a free user-licence for the seismic software package "Kingdom Suite".

- Luca Gasperini of ISMAR, Bologna will visit EMCOL in late March, 2006 and give a short course on his seismic software package "Seispro" and discuss the results of collaborative project "Seismic Risk Assessment in the Marmara Sea".

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30.