

3 March 2006

**EMCOL
MONTHLY MEETING
Minutes**

The meeting was convened in the Palaeontology Museum on Friday, 3 March 2006 at 10:00 hours, 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:

- “ESONET: European Seas Observatory Network” proposal has been submitted to the EC-FP6 as Network of Excellence project on 2nd March, 2006. In this project proposal EMCOL is a partner, responsible for Marmara Sea part of the network.
- “Seismic Cycles of the Anatolian Faults” (Coordinator: Aurelia Hubert-Ferrari). This 4-year project is supported by the EC- Marie Curie Excellence Grant. On the basis of a contractual agreement, EMCOL will be involved in the recovery and analysis of the sediment cores from small lakes along the North and East Anatolian Faults (Lake Ladik and Lake Havzar mostly), for studying the earthquake and palaeoclimate records.
- Lisa Doner, Ummuhan Sancar and Namık Çağatay will participate in Lake Iznik workshop that will be held in the University of Bonn on 20-21 March 2006.
- Lake Van ICDP project workshop will be held in Van in June 2006. The workshop applications should be made to Prof. Thomas Litt of Geology and Paleontology Institute at the University of Bonn before 31 March, 2006.

2. Laboratory renovation activities

Except for internet connections renovations and upgrades of EMCOL’s laboratories and the student office are now complete. EMCOL’s students’ office is equipped with three computers. The internet connection in all laboratories and student office is expected to be operational before 11 March 2006. The Sedimentology Laboratory is operational except for installation of the fume hood exhaust system. This work will be overseen by lab manager Lisa Doner using ITU’s facilities personnel.

3. Equipment procurement activities

- The Itrax Core Scanner will be delivered next week. Installation will be made on 20-21 March, with a trial test on 23 March and training on 24-25 March by Cox Analytical. Remzi Akkök will be the responsible person from EMCOL for organizing customs clearances and other official dealings with the Döner Sermaye Müdürlüğü, while most of EMCOL's management committee members are away for training visits in Germany.
- The Freeze-dryer has been installed in the Sedimentology Laboratory, and is in use.
- The Bench-top centrifuge and micro-balance has been delivered and installed in the Sedimentology Laboratory..
- The Shimatzu TIC/TOC analyzer is expected in the next two weeks,
- The Analysette Sediment Size Analyzer is expected to arrive in customs next week
- We will make decision on the purchase of the subbottom profiler next week after arrival of Emin Demirbağ's return from the trial test of the MTA's equipment in the Gökova Gulf.
- The vibracorer purchase is under discussion. Namik Cagatay, Mahir Vardar and Lisa Doner will soon make the final choice between two size classes from Rossfelder Corp.
- We are in negotiations with Mursan Company to purchase a boat, engine and trailer.
- The CTD has been held in customs for 3 weeks and is expected to be in EMCOL next week.
- The design for the core photography station is almost complete.

4. Training activities in European Core Facilities

Short training visits have been organized to:

- a) GeoForschungsZentrum Potsdam (12-15 March)
- b) IODP core repository Bremen (15-17 March)

Namık Çağatay, Can Genç, Nigün Okay, Lisa Doner, Emre Damcı and Ummuhan Sancar will participate in these visits.

5. EMCOL students recruitment

Gül Sürmelihi and Demet Biltekin's applications for scholarships have been submitted to TÜBİTAK. It is anticipated that will be supported by TÜBİTAK to work for the EMCOL project.

A computer Engineer will be employed for the Municipality supported project, "Earthquake risk evaluation in the Marmara Sea", starting from 1st April 2006 for three months. The engineer will help the project team in the geophysical and core scanner data handling and processing.

Applications from Rakia Meister (MSc Climate change student in University of East Anglia) and Çağrı İmamoğlu (a PhD geophysics student at ITU) have been received and needs the review of the

evaluation committee.

5. Other matters

- EMCOL is being represented by a poster and a power point slide show in the Career Day activities of the Faculty of Mines, being held during 1-3 March 2006. There has been great deal of interest by the undergraduate and graduate students so far in the EMCOL's presentation at the Career Day.

- A poster and EMCOL brochures in Turkish and English will be prepared in March for the two meetings: 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. The main aim of these activities is to introduce EMCOL to Turkish and International scientific communities.

- EMCOL project activities have been listed on the EMCOL Web-page. Cengiz Zabcı will help Can Genç in developing a new user-friendly web-page.

-Emin Demirbağ is now participating in the trial sessions of Caner MTA general Directorate's Chirp-Subbottom Profiler System in Marmaris. This experience will be important for the operation of EMCOL's subbottom profiler system.

- Lisa Doner will attend an NSF Workshop "Preservation of Lake Sediment Cores and Associated Data: Benefits of Proper Curation" in Salt Lake City, U.S.A. during March 23 and 24, 2006. This is in preparation for EMCOL's core curation role in the Lake Van ICDP project.

- EMCOL needs space for storing samples and the field equipment. Mahir Vardar, Dean of Faculty of Mines and EMCOL's task leader for field equipment facility, is planning to build EMCOL a new refrigerated core storage area and a field equipment storage room south of the Faculty of Mines building before the end of 2006. Until then, EMCOL will store core-catcher and discrete core samples in the basement near the cold storage room. The bulky field equipment will be organized in its present location in the basement and the valuable small field equipment will be placed in a small room on the same floor as the EMCOL's student office.

- EMCOL employed two doctoral students (Emre Damcı and Sena Akçer) starting from 1 September 2005. Sena Akçer left EMCOL as of 2 January 2006. We now have only one EMCOL doctoral student (Emre Damcı). The EMCOL student's net salary is considerably below the university salary for a graduate student because of the high tax deductions. It was decided to request the permission of the FP project officers in Brussels to raise the salary for the EMCOL students to the level of the salary of the graduate students in Turkish universities. This raise could be made by using unused student scholarship funds in the project budget, which have accumulated since the start of the project.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00.