

## Second-Year Assessment Report of EMCOL Advisory Committee

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During the EMCOL Advisory Committee (EAC) meeting held at the Faculty of Mines (ITU) 12-13 April 2007, the second-year activity and progress of the EMCOL project was presented by the coordinator Prof. N. Cagatay. The progress report was discussed with the EAC members. Thereafter the EAC members spent a few hours visiting the different laboratories, storage facilities and looked at some field equipment. In addition, the EAC members had the chance to talk to the EMCOL graduate students. The general impression was that the significant progress made during the first year has continued during the second year. Following the EAC meeting on April 13, which reviewed the status and progress of the EMCOL working packages (WP) in more detail, the EAC has made the following assessment on the second year status of the EMCOL project:

**WP1:** After fully refurbished laboratories were already in place at the end of the first year of the project, the second year activity concentrated on improving management and resources such as mobilization of existing personnel, improving and updating the EMCOL's web-page, training of personnel and graduate students by visiting experts, and some re-organization of laboratory space for installation of new equipment. Four graduate students were actively involved with EMCOL activities, which are fully funded by EMCOL. Six additional graduate students use EMCOL facilities based on funding from TUBITAK and ITU research assistantships. The EAC appreciates the increase in graduate students as this clearly demonstrates the improvement of EMCOL research potential. The EAC has observed an integration of EMCOL activities with the ITU Faculty of Mines as EMCOL was able to use technical support from the Faculty personnel.

**WP2:** The EMCOL Management Committee was noted to meet regularly. Involvement of potential users of EMCOL equipment in the monthly meetings of the EMCOL Management Committee encouraged a broad use of the facilities, which were put in place during the first and the second year of the EMCOL project. The replacement of Lisa Doner by Ercan Özcan is not considered having any negative effect on the progress of the EMCOL project.

**WP3:** The EAC is satisfied by seeing EMCOL being able to put in place further infrastructure during the second year consisting of high-tech-instrumentation (e.g. the Geotek MSCL and the Spectrophotometer) both already fully functioning. It is positive to see that EMCOL has managed to follow the advice of the EAC from last year and completed the MSCL with a gamma-attenuation sensor for density determination. Together with the XRF-scanner put in place last year, EMCOL now has reached a technical level for chemical and physical analysis of cores, which is comparable to a limited number of advanced laboratories in Europe. The field sampling capacity has been greatly improved by construction of a new platform, purchase of a boat and survey/sampling device (subbottom profiler, underwater vibrocorer, kajak corers with core catcher, steel pipe for vibrocorer and a metal cage protecting the CTD sensors). Highly interesting sediment cores sampled from the Marmara Sea using this equipment demonstrate how even the delicate sediment surface can be recovered. However, for even more difficult sampling of the sediment-water transition in deeper water (e.g. Black





Sea), the EAC recommends to consider constructing or purchase of a freeze-sampling device. After fitting temperature and humidity sensor and alarm into the core storage room, the EMCOL core repository is now on a technical level essential for high-quality long-term storage of core samples.


**WP4:** The EAC appreciates that the EMCOL Management Committee took training of young scientists for using new equipment seriously by sending students to institutions in EU countries as well as inviting experts from abroad for a series of lectures and training courses (nine courses in eleven months). As a result, it is the observation of the EAC that the graduate students are fully competent running the equipment and producing high-level scientific results.

**WP5:** The EMCOL Management Committee has put serious efforts for publicizing the EMCOL Project itself and the research findings achieved so far by means of posters, brochures and oral presentations in seven national and international scientific meetings. It is positive to note that the investment on the EMCOL Project served for further integration of the EMCOL research team with the EU institutions within the framework of ongoing and forthcoming EU projects. They have already partnerships in two EU projects and additional collaboration in five international projects. The EMCOL team also takes part in the preparation of four international project proposals.

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