

## **Third-Year Assessment Report of EMCOL Advisory Committee**

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The EMCOL Advisory Committee meeting was held in the Faculty of Mines-Istanbul Technical University during 21-22 April 2008. The meeting started with the presentation on the third year activities by the project coordinator Prof. Dr. Namik Cagatay. It was followed by some scientific outcomes from various field and laboratory studies performed by the EMCOL scientists. The morning session was ended by visiting the laboratories and some demonstrations given by graduate students. Further discussion between the advisory committee and the EMCOL scientists continued during the afternoon session. The committee then had a private meeting and reviewed the status and progress of the EMCOL work packages. The committee members unanimously agreed that the third year activities in particular and the overall performance in general was quite satisfactory. The members were pleased to see that the project has already reached a mature state with well-designed laboratories, trained students and research staff as well as scientific productions in terms of journal publications and oral and poster presentations in international-national meetings.

The committee has made the following assessments on the third year status of the project:

### **WP1: Management of Resources**

Most of the goals of this WP has already been achieved within the first two years. They included the mobilization of personnel, establishment of the project web page and its regular updating, training of experts from other institutions, re-organization of laboratory space for installation of equipments. In the third year, a new project meeting room was refurbished in the same floor with the other EMCOL laboratories. Another space that is planned to serve as isotope geochemistry laboratory is under development (proposal pending). This development is highly appreciated by the EAC because modern mass spectrometer facilities would further improve the laboratory infrastructure in particular in the context of environmental and climatic research.

### **WP2: Review, Assessment and Reporting**

Management committee meetings continued regularly on a monthly basis, minutes distributed around scientific community and placed on EMCOL's web-site. These meetings helped a broader use of the EMCOL facilities by the community.

### **WP3: Development and Maintenance of Infrastructure**

Following the advancement on infrastructure development and maintenance during the first two years, such as the installation of MSCL, XRF core scanner, sedimentology and Geochemistry Laboratories, field equipment storage facility, vibrocorer, piston corer, kajak corers, the third year activities included the construction of an extra piston-hammer corer and a sediment/water interface corer to recover undisturbed cores and the purchase of a larger UPS for better and uninterrupted power supply of the XRF-scanner.

**WP4: Training of Laboratory teams**

During the third year of the project, a total of four full-time PhD students were recruited from the project funds. In addition, two full time graduate students were recruited from the TUBITAK (Turkish Scientific and Technological Research Council) budget. One Ph.D and two MSc thesis were completed during 2007-2008 period. Several students were sent abroad to attend on-site and off-site training courses.

**WP5: Brokerage events**

The project team updated EMCOL posters and brochures in Turkish and English, displayed and distributed them in various meetings. The team members participated in 9 scientific and technical meetings with 23 presentations on the EMCOL project itself as well as on the project results. The advisory committee has witness very active collaboration with European institutions, participation to the preparation of five 7th Framework proposals. EMCOL presently participates in two EC FP7 projects as partners, two EC FP7 projects as collaborators (sub-contractors), 2 international collaborative projects and 1 project funded by the national funds.

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