

OCEAN DRILLING PROGRAM

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS:

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PROGRAM MANAGER:

JOINT OCEANOGRAPHIC INSTITUTIONS
1755 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036-2102 USA
Tel: (202) 232-3900
Fax: (202) 232-8203
E-mail: joil@brook.edu
www.joi-odp.org

SCIENTIFIC PLANNING:

JOIDES OFFICE
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
Geology and Geophysics Department, MS #22
Woods Hole, MA 02543 USA
Tel: (508) 289-3481
Fax: (508) 457-2187
E-mail: joides@whoi.edu
www.whoi.edu/joides

SCIENCE OPERATOR:

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
Ocean Drilling Program
1000 Discovery Drive
College Station, TX 77845-9547 USA
Tel: (409) 845-2673
Fax: (409) 845-4857
www-odp.tamu.edu

LOGGING OPERATOR:

LAMONT-DOHERTY EARTH OBSERVATORY
Borehole Research Group
Palisades, NY 10964 USA
Tel: (914) 365-8672
Fax: (914) 365-3182
E-mail: borehole@ldeo.columbia.edu
www.ldeo.columbia.edu/BRG/brg_home.html

Media Only:

Pamela Baker-Masson
c/o Tulip Inn Hotel, Cape Town
(21) 23 51 16

NEWS ADVISORY

WORLD'S LARGEST SCIENTIFIC DRILL SHIP TO DOCK IN CAPE TOWN

Friday, 10 Oct. 1:30-3:30 PM — Media Preview

Media are invited to tour *JOIDES Resolution* (pronounced JOY-DEEZ), the research vessel for the Ocean Drilling Program (ODP). This unique 163 metre-long drillship has retrieved sediment and rock samples from deep below the seafloor in water depths as great as 6000 metres. It is the only research vessel of its kind in the world.

Media will have the chance to interview ODP scientists, view the research and drilling equipment, sediment and rock samples, and learn about the technology used to drill beneath the seafloor. The ship is outfitted with 12 laboratories containing the most advanced equipment enabling scientists to conduct research while at sea. This will be the drillship's first visit to South Africa.

JOIDES Resolution will be returning from an expedition off the coast between Congo and the Cape of Good Hope. Scientists seek to better understand the climate changes that have effected the African continent over the past several millions of years. The Benguela Current is strongly influenced by wind. "The intensity of upwelling directly reflects the intensity of winds, and the precipitation in western Africa," explains co-chief scientist Dr. Gerold Wefer of the University of Bremen (Germany). "And, in turn, the winds drive the mighty Benguela Current, the strongest in the South Atlantic."

Scientists available for interviews:

Dr. Wolfgang Berger, Current Co-Chief, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California, San Diego, US
Dr. Gerold Wefer, Current Co-Chief, University of Bremen, Germany
Dr. Rochelle Wigley, Scientist Leg 175, University Cape Town, South Africa
Dr. Henry Dick, Upcoming Co-Chief, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, US
Dr. Jim Natland, Upcoming Co-Chief, RSMAS, University Of Miami, US
Dr. David Falvey, Director, Ocean Drilling Program

Sat., 11 Oct. 10:00 AM-3:00 PM — The public is invited to tour the *JOIDES Resolution*. ODP scientists will be leading groups of 12 -15 people through the ship laboratories and living quarters. The public will have the chance to view the research and drilling equipment, sediment and rock samples and hear about the technology used to drill beneath the seafloor. Tours are available on a first come - first served basis. **Note:** For safety reasons, all visitors onboard the ship must be 14 years of age or older.

Location: Table Bay, Duncan Dock

The Ocean Drilling Program (ODP) is an international partnership of scientists and research institutions organized to explore the history and structure of Earth through scientific ocean drilling. During these scientific cruises, each approximately eight weeks long, the research vessel drills holes deep into the seafloor. From these holes, scientists retrieve sediment, rock samples and geophysical data from the layers beneath the seafloor. These layers span millions of years of Earth's geologic history. ODP provides samples, shipboard and shore-based facilities for the study of these samples, and downhole measurements (e.g., wireline logging) and opportunities for special experiments to determine *in situ* conditions. ODP is primarily funded by the US National Science Foundation and research agencies in 20 international partners.

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