

Russia

Meetings and Workshops

- Russian GEOTRACES Workshop: From 27th to 29th November 2012 the first Russian workshop of the GEOTRACES International program was held in Moscow at the Shirshov Institute of Oceanology, Russian academy of sciences. About ninety persons including Russian scientists from seven institutes participated, together with scientists leading the GEOTRACES program in Europe and the USA. During the workshop about 30 oral presentations were made (including 8 talks of the young Russian scientists), along with 15 poster presentations. The workshop showed that research themes of Russian scientists in many respects correspond to the main GEOTRACES scientific goals. Particular Russian interests include estuarine chemistry (trace metals, radionuclides, and organic carbon compounds) of major rivers, biogeochemical processes, (including trace metals and gases such as methane) on the Russian shelf, sedimentary and chemical fluxes between the shelf and open Arctic Ocean as well as the fluxes from atmosphere to the Arctic Seas.

The Russian workshop established international contacts and identified priorities for research into the marine chemistry of the Arctic Ocean. Research cruises that would address the main GEOTRACES scientific goals have been identified during discussion at the workshop. Issues linked with a correct clean sampling and analysis of trace metals were discussed as soon as one of the main Russian problem is lack of special equipment to collect uncontaminated seawater samples for analysis of heavy metals. An obvious necessity of participation of Russian colleagues in intercalibration of the sampling procedures followed by the trace metal analysis, as well as training of the young Russian scientists in the leading GEOTRACES' laboratories was emphasized. All the participants supported a joint declaration (http://www.geotraces.org/images/stories/documents/workshops/Russian/Russian_GEOTRACES_Statement.pdf). Workshop participants suggested the rapid formation of Russian GEOTRACES Committee to develop GEOTRACES activities and guide the scientific goals and implementation of the program in Russia.

The workshop was followed by the round table "Prospects for the Arctic Ocean: International Expedition 2015" (held in the framework of the 2nd International Exhibition "Oceans 2012" in Moscow 30th November 2012). The round table aimed to support the Russian initiative for an International Polar Decade, and considered proposals of representatives from the GEOTRACES Scientific Steering Committee to hold Arctic Ocean International Expeditions in 2015.

- The organizational meeting of Russian nation committee took place at the Shirshov Institute of Oceanology, Russian academy of sciences, on the 24-th of April. The Russian committee includes twenty-one high-level scientists representing leading Russian institutes with geochemical, oceanographic and related expertise. Sixteen scientists from the different institutes were present at the meeting where the following issues were under consideration:
 - Preparing of the GEOTRACES National program based on researches proposed in the Russian scientific institutes' program plans;
 - Address the leadership of the country to provide organizational and financial support to perform work on the Russian side;
 - Participation in the intercalibration of the total heavy metal content in the suspended particulate matter from the Mediterranean and Black Seas collected by professor Hein de Baar group (NIOZ);

- Collection and treatment of oceanographic and geochemical data on the White Sea' for creation of data base.

Academician Alexander Lisitzin (Shirshov Institute of Oceanology RAS, Moscow) and academician Valentin Sergienko (Far Eastern Branch RAS, Vladivostok) agreed to be Co-chairmen of the Russian nation Committee, as well as prof. Ludmila Demina, prof. Alexander Dubinin, Prof. Anatoly Astakhov, and Dr. Igor Ashik were approved as vice-chairmen.

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