



**National Centre for Antarctic & Ocean Research**  
(An Autonomous Society under the **MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES**, Govt. of  
India)  
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**Invites Nominations from Scientists/Researchers for forthcoming IODP expeditions**

The Director, National Centre for Antarctic & Ocean Research (NCAOR), on behalf of IODP- India invites nominations alongwith detailed biodata and research/professional experience, from geoscientists/researchers working in established national institutions/organisations and universities, to participate in the Integrated Ocean Drilling Program (IODP) during 2011. The detailed program overview and the last date of nominations could be found at [www.ncaor.org](http://www.ncaor.org) and [www.iodp.org](http://www.iodp.org).

**Information on forthcoming IODP Expeditions:  
(CRISP, Superfast, and Mid-Atlantic microbiology expeditions)**

1. **Costa Rica Seismogenesis project Expedition (CRISP)** (15 March – 16 April 2011): This expedition is part of a project designed to understand the processes that control nucleation and seismic rupture of large earthquakes at erosional subduction zones. It is based on part of IODP Proposal 537-Full5. Scientific objectives include constraining the architecture, and evolution of the plate boundary megathrust and role of fluids, as well as the nature of the upper plate in a tectonically erosive margin.

Last date by which NCAOR receives nominations: 1<sup>st</sup> July 2010

2. **Superfast Spreading rate Crust 4 Expedition** (16 April – 19 May 2011): Based on the results of three previous expeditions (206, 309, 312) and the subsequent IODP Proposal 522-Full5, this expedition aims to continue the mission to understand the accretion of oceanic crust formed at a superfast spreading rate at the East Pacific Rise. Previous drilling in Hole 1256D reached a total penetration of 1506 m, including 1250 m into the igneous crust. The hole passed through 345 m of sheeted dikes and continued 100 m into gabbroic rock. This new expedition will deepen Hole 1256D as far as possible into gabbro to complete coring and logging of an entire upper to mid-oceanic crustal section. The primary objectives are to (1) test models of mid-ocean ridge crustal accretion, (2) establish magmatic, hydrothermal, and tectonic processes and interactions, (3) determine the geological nature of layer 3 and the layer 2/3 boundary, and (4) constrain the magnetic contribution of the lower crust to marine magnetic anomalies.

Last date by which NCAOR receives nominations: 15<sup>th</sup> July 2010

3. **Mid Atlantic Ridge Microbiology Expedition** (September – November 2011): Based on IODP Proposal 677-Full, this expedition will examine the microbiology of a sediment pond and the underlying young, cold, and hydrologically active flank of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. Drilling operations at three sites will include sediment/ basalt coring, basement logging, and installation of three long-term seafloor observatories. The primary science objectives are to investigate (1) the nature of microbial communities in young ridge flanks and their role in crustal weathering, and (2) the origin of deep-seated microbial communities.

Last date by which NCAOR receives nominations: 1<sup>st</sup> August 2010