

x  
①

# Memorandum of Understanding

---

on the

## Implementation, Management and Operation of the International Continental Scientific Drilling Program (ICDP)

between the

**Ministry of Earth Sciences, Govt. of India**

**New Delhi**

and the

**Helmholtz Centre Potsdam**

**GFZ German Research Centre for Geosciences,  
as a governmentally funded, Public Law Foundation  
of the State of Brandenburg, Germany,**

**on behalf of the Members of ICDP**

**January 07, 2011**

**icdp |**



The Ministry of Earth Sciences (hereinafter “MoES”) and the Helmholtz Centre Potsdam, GFZ, German Research Centre for Geosciences (hereinafter “GFZ”),

- I) recognizing that scientific drilling is an indispensable tool in modern Earth Science research as it provides a unique means of obtaining exact, fundamental and globally significant knowledge of the origin, evolution, structure, composition and processes of the Earth’s crust and of many parts of System Earth;
- II) further recognizing that an International Continental Scientific Drilling Program, involving both shallow and deep drilling at sites carefully chosen throughout the world, is critically needed for a better understanding of such diverse problems as
  - the physical and chemical processes responsible for earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, landslides, and optimal technologies for mitigating their adverse effects
  - the manner in which Earth’s climate has changed in the recent past and the reasons for such changes
  - the effects of meteorite impacts on life and environment
  - the nature of the deep biosphere and its relation to hydrocarbon maturation, ore deposition and evolution of life on Earth
  - the formation and evolution of sedimentary basins
  - the fundamental physics of plate tectonics and heat, mass and fluid transfer through Earth’s crust
  - the distribution and formation of mineral deposits and hydrocarbon resources in diverse geologic settings;
- III) considering the common interest amongst geoscientists worldwide to work together in joint projects where scientific drilling is a critical technology;
- IV) stressing the objectives and goals defined in the Reports of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Continental Scientific Drilling (held in Potsdam in 1993, and 2005 resp.) and focusing on the R&D themes
  - Climate Dynamics and Global Environments
  - Active Faulting and Earthquake Processes
  - Volcanic Systems and Thermal Regimes
  - Impact Structures and Impact Processes
  - Geobiosphere and Early Life
  - Convergent Plate Boundaries and Collision Zones
  - Mantle Plumes and Rifting
  - Natural Resources and Industry-coupled Scientific Drilling

do, therefore, agree as follows:

- Climate Dynamics and Global Environments
- Active Faulting and Earthquake Processes
- Volcanic Systems and Thermal Regimes
- Impact Structures and Impact Processes
- Geobiosphere and Early Life
- Convergent Plate Boundaries and Collision Zones
- Mantle Plumes and Rifting
- Natural Resources and Industry-coupled Scientific Drilling

do, therefore, agree as follows:

### **Article 1**

#### **Purpose and Multinational Participation**

MoES and GFZ shall cooperate in the scientific planning, management and operation of an Earth Science research drilling program to be known as the International Continental Scientific Drilling Program (ICDP). MoES and GFZ will encourage additional international participation in ICDP through MoUs with other national or international organizations, funding agencies, and countries. Such MoUs will be consistent with the terms of this MoU. Additional MoUs with new members joining the ICDP will be signed by the Executive Agency for the ICDP.

### **Article 2**

#### **Management**

- (1) The GFZ shall serve as the Executive Agency for ICDP. The Executive Agency will provide operational support for the ICDP through the Operational Support Group (OSG), which will be formed and located within, and managed by the GFZ. Responsibilities and the Staffing of the OSG are defined in Annex A. Expenditure of ICDP funds by the Executive Agency must be approved by the Assembly of Governors (AOG) through an Annual Program Plan and budget elaborated by the Executive Committee (EC).

