

8th Weekly Report SO259 (INDEX 2017)



13.10.2017

Today's morning SONNE docked at pier "D" in Cape Town harbor and finished a successful cruise. Cruise SO259 targeted the German license area for polymetallic sulfides in the Indian Ocean. The campaign INDEX2017 represented the fourth exploration cruise after the signing of the exploration contract with the International Seabed Authority by BGR in 2015. It was also the second cruise with a research vessel owned by the Ministry for Education and Research BMBF. The extraordinary equipment, the all-time very professional captain and officers, the very effective performance of the crew and the always very kind communication on board SONNE are outstanding and made a very efficient working possible. This is leading directly to very positive results for the exploration work and its success!

At the end of the cruise I would like to heartily thank all participants for their high motivation and professional performance. This is especially true for the participating scientists from the Universities Hamburg, HCU Hamburg, Bremen and Erlangen, the GEOMAR, the DZMB Senckenberg am Meer, the contracted scientists Dr. Willi Weinrebe and Gary Massoth, and particularly the trainees Alyaa Zidan, Sumran Praphat, Eric Arthur-Mensah and Thomas Whiddon from the International Seabed Authority. A special thank is due to captain Lutz Mallon and the entire SONNE crew. The cooperation and the communication on board was very efficient, professional, very friendly and exemplary at all times. The high number and the broad technical range of the deployed scientific tools were unproblematic at all times. The deployment and recovery were managed routinely and safely, even at difficult weather conditions. BGR is looking forward to use SONNE for the coming exploration cruises again. The participants of SO259 are looking forward to a soon return to SONNE and work with the crew again!

With best regards,

Dr. Ulrich Schwarz-Schampera, Chief Scientist



Fig. 1. The participants of cruise SO259 (INDEX2017) (upper row, from left to right): Unyime Umoh (ISA, Tongji U.), Ralf Freitag (BGR), Christian Hilgenfeld (U. Bremen), Henning Wedemeyer (BGR), Andreas Lückge (BGR), Simone Sturm (BGR), Niko Lahajnar (U. Hamburg), Klaas Gerdes (DZMB), Katrin Schwalenberg (BGR), Andreas Heiner (BGR), Conny Kriete (BGR), Hendrik Müller (U. Bremen), Dennis Hagedorn (BGR), Ingo Heyde (BGR), Ulrich Schwarz-Schampera (BGR), Konstantin Reek (U. Bremen), Gary Massoth (USA). (middle row, from left to right) Sumran Praphat (ISA), Patrick Hoyer (U. Erlangen), Willi Weinrebe (Kiel), Antje Wittenberg (BGR), Thomas Whiddon (ISA), Natalie Harms (U. Hamburg), Tanja Dufek (HCU Hamburg), Jeannette Meima (BGR), Meike Klischies (GEOMAR), Melanie Steffen (HCU Hamburg). (lower row, from left to right) Oliver Kefel (BGR), Sara Vulpius (U. Erlangen), Christian Wöhrl (BGR), Dilip Adhikari (HCU Hamburg), Katharina Kniesz (DZMB), Sebastian Graber (GEOMAR), Eric Arthur-Mensah (ISA), Terue Kihara (DZMB), Bettina Landsmann (BGR).

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