

Wochenbericht M75-1b, la Reunion – Dar es Salaam

3 February 2008

The tropical cyclone FAME followed a course according to the predictions, so the Meteor could sail back to the narrowest section of the Mozambique Channel early Monday morning to arrive on the section late Monday evening. There operations continued following a regular scheme: redeployment of moorings during daylight, CTD profiling, taking water samples and taking samples from the seafloor during night hours. Despite the loss of more than 2 days due to the passage of FAME, all planned observations could be carried out. This success could only be achieved because all operations went very smoothly: all moorings came to the surface immediately after releasing and there were no technical problems onboard the Meteor that caused any delay.

Early Friday morning the scientific activities were finished and the Meteor set course to Dar es Salaam. The success of the cruise was celebrated with a BBQ on the deck. The food was delicious again, including ‘bratwursten’ ofcourse.



Last days were used to load the containers which will be transported back to Texel

Saturday and Sunday were used for packing all gear into the three containers that will be shipped back to Texel, further analyses of the data and writing reports on this cruise. On Sunday afternoon a number of us presented first results of the project. From the mooring data it was shown that eddy like motions dominate the current field, similar to what we have seen during

previous cruises. However, the data also suggested that the total water transport through the Mozambique Channel has increased enormously in the last 1.5 years. In this period the southward transport is more than double the transport during the previous 2-3 years. As yet, the reason for this is unclear. Anyhow, it clearly shows the importance of long term observations to obtain a complete picture. The detailed acoustic observations of the sea floor that penetrate a few hundred meters deep clearly showed that near the centre of the channel an area is present with a very regular sedimentation over very long time periods. This gives the geologists the possibility to study past climate fluctuations if long cores are taken at that position in the future.



Scientist on board of the Meteor

On Sunday afternoon a traditional picture of the scientific team on board the Meteor was taken. All members of the team look happy. This is not surprising, both scientifically and socially this was an excellent cruise. On behalf of the scientists I like to thank captain Niels Jakobi and his crew for the excellent facilities that they offered us during the past two weeks.

Beste GrüÙe von den Fahrtleiter,

Herman Ridderinkhof

Fahrtleiter FS Meteor M75-1b