

Warm greetings from METEOR!

The last days of *Ristretto e Lungo* went so fast that it is hard to realize that today we will be already in La Valetta. During these days we continued with our intensive sampling program completing a unique sample collection from the Urania and Discovery brine pools. We were busy with finishing measurements, documentation of mineral precipitates and chemosynthetic fauna, core descriptions and writing cruise report. At the same time we had another important task to fulfil - presents for our Captain, Michael Schneider, since on 19th it was his birthday. The working plan for 19th of January was specifically designed with a care of the event, because we sincerely wanted to express our gratitude to the Captain and to METEOR's crew for the superior cruise, professionalism and general atmosphere on board during our *Ristretto e Lungo* journey.

Next day we started to pack and to clean. In the evening we reached our last planned location for the BIOFUN project. After video survey and the box corer station we started towards Malta.

Without doubt, *Ristretto e Lungo* was a great success!

**WE ARE SINCERELY GREATFUL TO THE CAPITAIN, OFFICER PERSONNEL AND
TO THE CREW OF THE R/V METEOR!**

Gert de Lange, Alina Stadnitskaia and the scientific party of *Ristretto e Lungo* M83/3 cruise (December 2010-January 2011)