

and chemistry, microbial activities and associated fauna at selected hydrothermal vent sites.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> SPP1144-Workshop in Etelsen, 28.-30.6.05

The 2<sup>nd</sup> SPP1144 workshop to present the results of Meteor cruises M62/4, 62/5, 64/1 and 64/2 and the preliminary results of the funded SPP1144 DFG-projects took place in June 05. The meeting was well-attended by 60 German scientists. Georgy Cherkashov from VNIIOkeangeologia,

St.Petersburg, Russia attended as an invited scientist. Future research activities at the Mid-Atlantic ridge segments and hydrothermal vent fields in the selected areas at 15°N and between 4 and 11°S were coordinated during this meeting. This successful workshop brought together scientists and graduate students from all disciplines interested in both areas.

COLIN DEVEY



## INDIA



### The Indian Ridge Program

The Indian Ridge community was active and busy during the last year. Extensive multi-parameter geophysical and water column (physical, chemical and biological) data was acquired during the two multi-disciplinary cruises that were undertaken along segments of the Carlsberg Ridge and the Central Indian Ridge. Preliminary data processing is underway.

Another important milestone of the Indian Ridge program was hosting the InterRidge workshop on Indian Ridge systems titled "Tectonic and Oceanic Processes along the Indian Ocean Ridge System". This took place at the National Institute of Oceanography, Dona Paula, Goa, India from 19 to 21 January, 2005. There were 10 special talks, 24 oral presentations and 18 poster presentations. Apart from this, a special interactive talk was devoted to the recent seismic event that occurred off Sumatra and generated a tsunami. On the second day of the workshop a film on "Volcanoes of the deep sea" was screened. Panel discussions were held during the concluding session of the workshop, which

brought out opportunities for forging collaboration among the ridge researchers across the world.

The workshop was organized with financial help from the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research [CSIR], India, InterRidge and Ridge 2000, USA.

Looking towards the future, the Indian Ridge program is currently in the process of chartering a suitable research vessel to conduct Deep-Tow / ROV investigations over selected regions of the Carlsberg and Central Indian Ridges. The field program is planned for the first quarter of 2006. It is a great opportunity for international collaborative efforts to take place; interested scientists may contact the Coordinator of the Indian Ridge program Dr. K.A. Kamesh Raju, kamesh@darya.nio.org or any member of the Indian Ridge program to initiate collaboration.

K.A. KAMESH RAJU



## JAPAN



### InterRidge Japan Update

Japanese ridge scientists are continuing their activities with several seagoing research plans. The InterRidge-Japan program sponsored by JSPS (PI: K. Tamaki), which has supported the annual contribution to InterRidge, attendance at steering committees and workshops, as well as participation of Japanese scientists in international cruises, will end at the end of FY2005. We are trying to establish a new framework to maintain the community and to promote ridge-related studies in Japan.

### Diving cruises near the Rodriguez Triple Junction

The Shinkai6500 diving cruise (PIs: K. Takai and H. Kumagai) is scheduled at the southernmost Central Indian Ridge in January to February, 2006. The area includes

two completely different types of hydrothermal fields, the Kairei and the Edmond. The Kairei field is known for its extraordinarily high concentration of hydrogen in hydrothermal solutions and for its chemolithoautotrophic ecosystem, that has not been observed at the Edmond site. The unique chemistry and ecosystem are interpreted to be due to the serpentinization of ultramafic rocks at high temperature. The hyperthermophilic, lithoautotrophic subsurface microbial system is an important key as it could be a last universal common ancestral community of life. The submersible dives by geologists, geochemists and biologists at these two sites and the adjacent ridge crests including a small oceanic detachment aim to reveal the tectonic setting of the area, the details of the ecosystems, and the interaction between them. A total of 30 dives are