

GERMANY/HONG KONG JOINT RESEARCH SCHEME
THE PROJECT REPORT
(for Project Completion)

Project Number: G_HK044/11

Title

The IceAGE (Icelandic Marine Animals: Genetics and Ecology) project

Particulars

	Hong Kong team				German team	
Name of Project Co-ordinator (with title)	Moriaki Yasuhara				Saskia Brix	
Name of Co-Investigator (if any)					Pedro Martinez Arbizu	
Institution or Institutional affiliation	<input type="checkbox"/>	CityU	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HKU	<input type="checkbox"/>	University of _____
	<input type="checkbox"/>	CUHK	<input type="checkbox"/>	HKUST	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	HKBU	<input type="checkbox"/>	LU	<input type="checkbox"/>	Others: Senckenberg am Meer/ University of Oldenburg, German Centre for Marine Biodiversity Research (DZMB)
	<input type="checkbox"/>	HKIED	<input type="checkbox"/>	PolyU	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other project team members (if any)	Anna Jöst (PhD student)				Dr. Karin Meißner (Scientist DZMB) and Dr. Simone Nunes Brandao (postdoctoral fellow DZMB and University of Hamburg) Sarah Schnurr (PhD student) Maria Grimm (Master student)	

Funding Period

	1 st year	2 nd year (if applicable)
Start Date	01/01/2012	01/01/2013
Completion Date	31/12/2012	31/12/2013

Objective(s) as per original application

1. Decoding controlling factors of deep-sea biodiversity by interdisciplinary approach including traditional taxonomy, macroecology, molecular phylogenetics, ecological niche modeling, and paleoecology.
2. Better understanding large-scale spatiotemporal pattern of deep-sea biodiversity
3. Establishing deep-sea (paleo)biogeography using both classic and molecular methods

Details of Report [Please attach relevant document(s)]

i) Outline of proposed research and results obtained

The IceAGE (Icelandic Marine Animals: Genetics and Ecology) project is going pretty well. Purpose of this project is to elucidate diversity, distribution and phylogeny of deep-sea organisms in the sub-polar North Atlantic around Iceland. We are having the first bunch of data and the initial results are going to be published as a special volume in an international journal, Polish Polar research.

ii) Significance of research results

As mentioned in the section i, we already had the initial results and they are publishing as a special volume in Polish Polar Research. A paper by PI Yasuhara, his PhD student Anna Jöst, and his research team (Yasuhara et al in press) is included in this special volume. HKU team is having good distributional data of crustacean Ostracoda and more results are coming as a part of Jöst's PhD thesis. PI Yasuhara has been keeping close collaboration with PI Saskia Brix, Co-I Pedro Martinez Arbizu and other German researchers, and so this Hong Kong - Germany travel grant was very useful to develop and continue collaboration between us. Two PRG students Sarah Schnurr and Maria Grimm as well as a post doc Simone Nunes Brandao visited us in Hong Kong and their visit is important for future development of the research.

iii) Research output

Yasuhara, M., Grimm, M., Brandão, S.N., Jöst, A., Okahashi, H., Iwatani, H., Ostmann, A. and Martínez Arbizu, P., in press. Deep-sea benthic ostracodes from multiple core and epibenthic sledge samples in Icelandic waters. Polish Polar Research.

iv) Potential for or impact on further research collaboration

As described above, our collaboration is going very well, and we are now discussing next step of our collaboration to apply this grant again with similar research team.