

Results and Perspective of Gas Hydrate Drilling

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Japan has contributed lots for better understanding of marine gas hydrates, e.g., JNOC conducted hydrate drilling in Nankai Trough in 1997 and in MacKenzie Delta last year. Japan's G/H community has also made tremendous efforts in ODP drillings of gas hydrates. Our knowledge about gas hydrates has been dramatically expanded but still there are number of unanswered questions concerning the amounts of gas hydrate, vertical flux of methane within sediments and from the seafloor, and possible link between deep-biosphere and gas hydrate formation. Also, the causes of discrepancy between BGHS and BSR and the origin of double BSR are fundamental issues to understand gas hydrate. These problems should be the major targets of riser drilling of OD-21/IODP.