

## Project 'Sands for Students' - An outreach activity linked with 'Chikyu' and IODP

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The deep sea drilling vessel 'Chikyu' will play an important role in the Integrated Ocean Drilling Program (IODP). In relation to the IODP, a course of sedimentary petrological analyses around the drilling site will be needed, however, the sampling area will become wide spread. For the outreach activity about the IODP, we will make a plan of collaboration project with elementary to senior high school students, so that the method of sampling of stream sediments for analyses is easy for children.

'Chikyu' will carry out test drilling off the coast of Shimokita Peninsula, Aomori Prefecture, Japan in the summer of 2006. We invited the four schools of Hokkaido and Aomori Prefecture near the test site to take a part to our project. Several dozen students of each school succeeded in the sampling of stream sediments. The laboratory of National Science Museum of Japan (NMS) analyzed these samples about the mode, composition, and the U-Th-Pb age of the minerals. This data has been published on the website of the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC), and the samples archived on the Center for Advanced Marine Core Research of Kochi University.

We are planning the next worldwide plan for a 'Sands for Students' project similar to this pilot work in the future.