

The distribution of BSR off Japan-Preliminary studies in the Western Nankai Trough

Masao Hayashi[1]; Tatsuo Saeki[1]; Takao Inamori[1]; Toshiaki Kobayashi[1]; Masaru Nakamizu[1]; Tetsuya Fujii[1]

[1] JOGMEC

The methane hydrates which have been considered to develop widely off Japan through previous surveys are expected to be prolific energy resources of the future for the country. The Research Consortium for Methane Hydrate Resources in Japan (MH21) established to promote and investigate the possibility of commercialization for the methane hydrates has been executing various surveys in the Eastern Nankai Trough since 2001. To evaluate the potential of methane hydrates as energy resources, 2D and 3D seismic surveys and drilling of a number of wells with logging and coring have been carried out in the offshore area successfully. The comprehensive evaluation of those data indicates that methane hydrates are born in sand bodies transported into deep marine environment by turbidity currents.

Newly acquired knowledge by the high resolution 3D seismic survey in the Eastern Nankai Trough has been applied to the interpretation of BSR and sedimentary facies for old 2D seismic data in the part of adjacent Western Nankai Trough. The preliminary results of study will be introduced referring the significant findings related to methane hydrates by the drilling of DSDP and ODP nearby.

The results on distribution of BSR off Japan summarized by JOGMEC (former JNOC) through the previous joint research on methane hydrates with private sectors from 1995 to 2000 will be shown in the poster as well as that of worldwide compiled by JOGMEC based on the latest information.

This study has been conducted as a part of the research undertaken by MH21.