Foraminiferal assemblages from the Joetsu region in the Japan Sea

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A giant piston core, MD10-3312 of 31.115m long), obtained from the Site F (WD: 1026m) on a unnamed spur of Joetsu, southeastern margin of the Japan Sea during MD179 cruise of R/V Marion Defresne. It is characterized by alternation of light and dark layers, without influence of gas-hydrate, and thus has potential of a biostratigraphic standard in the Joetsu region. The followings are preliminary results by foraminiferal analysis.

1. Faunal composition on the benthic foraminifera is quite different between the dark and light layers, each other.
2. The suboxic species-group are highly abundant even in the light layers.
3. The time of establishment of the modern condition in the Japan Sea will be indicated by dominant occurrence of Neogloboquadrina incompta and disappear of Pullenia apertura in the uppermost part of the core.

Keywords: Japan Sea, benthic foraminifera, gas-hydrate, suboxic species