Growth history of Fe-Mn crusts in the northwest Pacific Ocean: Insights from trace element and Os isotope geochemistry

Kosuke T. Goto*, Tatsuo Nozaki2, Katsuhiko Suzuki3, Ayaka Tokumaru1, Akira Usui4, Qing Chang2, Jun-Ichi Kimura2, Tetsuro Urabe3

1GSJ/AIST, 2IFREE/JAMSTEC, 3Dept. Earth Planet. Sci., Univ., Tokyo, 4Natural Sciences Cluster, Kochi Univ.

A ferromanganese crust (hereafter called Fe-Mn crust) is a chemical sediment widely occurring on the slope of seamounts and known as a versatile material for deciphering the paleocean environmental changes throughout the Cenozoic period (e.g., Hein et al., 1992; Klemm et al., 2005; Burton, 2006). Here we report trace element and Os isotope compositions of Fe-Mn crusts in the northwest Pacific Ocean determined by ICP-QMS and MC-ICP-MS analyses. Based on our results together with previous geochemical data, we discuss the growth history of the Fe-Mn crusts and its relationship between genesis and paleocean environmental changes.

Keywords: paleoceanography, Cenozoic, ferromanganese crust, growth history, Os isotope, geochemistry