Print

Looking for Climate Change : Welcome to P6

Greetings from the Chief Scientist: Dr. Alison Macdonald

Welcome.

It is wonderful to have you here on our website. We hope you will enjoy following along with us on this voyage across the South Pacific where we will be looking for oceanic responses to climate change.

Some of you are students at schools near where I work in Woods Hole Massachusetts, while others are visitors from further away. So even as I begin write, I realize that much of what I say must be explained. For this reason, along with our own comments and stories, we will try to include as many links to definitions, explanations and other interesting web sites as we can.

Here, we will provide information and pictures from this 2009-2010 oceanographic expedition aboard the R/V Melville along 32°S in the Pacific. We will travel over 10,000 miles (~17,000 km) as we leave from Brisbane, Australia and sail to Bahia de Valparaiso , Chile, with a port stop in Papeete, French Polynesia. We will stop at approximately 285 locations along the way to send instruments overboard, taking variety measurements from the ocean surface down to the ocean floor.

Ours is the third such study to be performed along this line of latitude. The first took place in 1992 and the second in 2003. We will be comparing our findings to the results of these previous studies. The focus of our research is to look for changes in water properties that have taken place since the previous occupations of the 32°S line, and to attempt to link such changes to others seen in the Earth's climate such as increases in greenhouse gases and global warming. We are, of course, excited to see what we will discover, but many of us are just as excited about the places we will see in our travels and voyage itself. While some of us have been to sea many times and in many different oceans, some have never been on a research vessel before and don't really know what to expect. Will we be homesick or, worse, seasick? Will we be able to do the work expected of us? We hope to give you a feel what is like to go on a research voyage, to see different continents and to be out in the middle of the world's largest ocean (the Pacific) on a ship where people are working 24 a day every day. We would love to hear from you so please feel free to send us an email at clivar-p6@rv-melville.ucsd.edu with questions, comments or suggestions.

Please forgive us as much of this website is still under construction. We will continue to update it as the cruise progresses.

Last updated: January 15, 2010

CLIVAR is an international program focused on studying CLImate VARiability.

» Find out where the R/V *Melville* is now

The beginning: a view of Brisbane downloaded from Wunderphoto. It will take us 5 hours to get down the river and out to sea when we begin our journey.
(IGOR99)

Enlarge Image

The middle: a beach in Tahiti. It will be high summer by the time we reach the islands of French Polynesia in January.

Enlarge Image

The end: leg 2 of the P6 voyage will end here Valparaiso harbor in early February of 2010.

Copyright ©2007 Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, All Rights Reserved.
Mail: Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, 266 Woods Hole Road, Woods Hole, MA 02543, USA.
E-Contact: info@whoi.edu; press relations: media@whoi.edu, tel. (508) 457-2000
Problems or questions about the site, please contact webdev@whoi.edu