

Expedition METEOR 84/2



First weekly report: 23 – 27 February, 2011

On Saturday 26 February, 2011 R/V METEOR left at 1 p.m. local time her place situated on Ahirkapi roads, south from the Golden Horn of Istanbul and reached the Black Sea after crossing the Bosphorus. Before sailing the R/V METEOR had a demurrage of only 4 days in the port of Istanbul while scientists and scientific devices for the legs 1 and 2 were exchanged. New devices on board are the seafloor drill rig *MeBo*, and the autonomous underwater vehicle *AUV SEAL 5000*. In total 10 containers were loaded which had been sent from Germany to Istanbul with our scientific working materials.



On Friday 25 February late afternoon the seafloor drill rig *MeBo* has been successfully tested in Haydarpasa port. Everything worked fine so that after four days of intensive installations on board R/V METEOR the scheduled drillings at least technically should be possible.

The scientists from Germany, China, Austria, Spain, Georgia, Romania and Turkey embarked between 22-24 February, and used the time for the necessary work on deck together with the ship's crew, and also to set up the labs.

Entering the Black Sea we first of all were surprised by the heavy swell and the strong wind, and many colleagues got seasick on Saturday evening and in the first half of the night. But according to the forecast of our weather technician the wind turned down in the second half of the night, and at breakfast time everyone seemed to be quite healthy again. During the night we also reached the first working area at Eregli, and we started to record the data from the multi-beam EM122 and the Parasound systems. Due to scientific information from former cruises we could find acoustic anomalies in the water column very fast with the Parasound, which showed us strong emissions of free gas into the water column. These strong methane emissions will lead us in our planning of the station work in this area, whose results will be reported next week.

Best regards on behalf of the cruise participants

Gerhard Bohrmann

RV METEOR Sunday 27th February 2011

Further information on the cruise (in German):

http://www.marum.de/Logbuch_Meteor_842.html