ECORD Training Course 2015: "Virtual Ship Experience"
9 - 13 March, Bremen, Germany

Scientific drilling projects provide unique opportunities to gain essential skills, both in their routine applications in IODP operations as well as in advanced methods used in hypothesis testing. Such skills should form an integral part of the portfolio of all aspiring early-career scientists. As host to one of only three IODP core repositories in the world - and the only one in Europe - the MARUM, University of Bremen, Germany, is also an important hub for the next generation of IODP scientists at an early stage in their careers. A new ECORD training course now provides an opportunity to prepare them for future participation on IODP expeditions.

From 9 March to 13 March 2015, the new ECORD Training Course was held for the first time with 30 participants from nine different countries, including non-ECORD IODP member as well as non-IODP member countries. This one-week course, with a focus on the IODP core-flow procedures, was tailored to prepare the participants for sailing on an offshore drillship expedition, and to instill in them an appreciation of the high standards required in all kinds of coring projects. IODP-style lab exercises formed the foundation of the course, following the pattern of the unique "Virtual Ship" approach developed for the popular Bremen ECORD Summer Schools. The participants played a very active part, were exceptionally dedicated in contributing to practical exercises *(above)* and discussions, and also gained initial insights into the legendary multidisciplinary

photo Ursula Röhl/MARUM

team effort that is crucial for the success of the ocean drilling programmes.

For the detailed programme see http://www.marum.de/en/ECORD_Training_Course_2015.html.

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Group photograph of participants and lecturers of the ECORD Training Course 2015 (V. Diekamp/MARUM).