

A few months ago (October...), one of our proposals "Development of Continuous Determination Techniques for Marine Biogenic Carbon Cycles –BIOCARBON–" was funded.

Goals of the project are to establish the techniques of eddy covariance for material flux on shipboard, to develop continuous surface seawater sampling equipment for trace metals while ship is cruising at ~15 knot, and to establish the DOC molecular size separation technique under the 10-year GEOSS (Global Earth Observation System of Systems) program by MEXT (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology), Japan. This project will be supported for three years and the budget is 31,000,000 Japanese yen (270,000 US dollars) for the first year.

In March 9–10, SOLAS–Japan committee meeting will be held and a joint workshop with Japanese IMBER members at Nagoya. We will discuss the cruise schedule of research vessels for 2007–2009.

In June 2006, the Subtropical Nitrogen Fixation Flux Study (SNIFFS) cruise will be carried out by SOLAS–Japan group.