



## Report for Pre-cruise training

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Institution (Position) : JAMSTEC- YOKOSUKA (SCIENTIST)

Expedition title	PRE- EXPEDITION 349, SOUTH CHINA SEA
Duration	05/11/13 ~ 08/11/13
Place	KOCHI CORE CENTER, KOCHI, JAPAN
<p><b>Brief report</b></p> <p>In the three and a half days of training to get familiarized with core descriptions, I selected the Leg 180 Sites 1109, 1111, 1114, 1117, and 1118. These cores provided the lithologic variety that I would expect in a rifting basin adjacent to a continental mass like the South China Sea. Although I originally planned to examine mostly cores from the previous drill sites in South China Sea (Leg 184), they were inaccessible because of ongoing activities at the core repository. However, based on core descriptions, most of the sedimentary sections encountered in Leg 180 are good analogues for those reported for Leg 184. In addition, Leg 180 sites also recovered igneous and metamorphic rocks, fault gouge interval, and the lithologic succession interval inferred to represent the onset of rifting, making them perfect for my pre-cruise training purposes.</p> <p>For the training, I initially tried to describe the cores and later compared my impressions with the actual core descriptions. In the course of my examinations, casings for some sections were found to be switched and were corrected accordingly. The main problem I had was that the hues (colors) of the cores have changed significantly because of dehydration during storage. I also had confusion with the lithologic terms used in the ship because I was trained with using more general terms used for outcrop descriptions on land. Thus, this exercise was very useful for me in familiarizing myself not only with how the rocks would look like in cores, which represent only a very small window into the whole crust that were drilled through, but also with the lithologic terms used in the ship.</p> <p>Another objective that I set for myself was to be able to differentiate and define lithologic unit boundaries. This was not easy for me and I am still not very confident with it but I am hoping that if the original hues and textures of the rocks drilled are preserved, then I would also be able to tell the difference between rock units more readily. This is because I found that some lithologic units, especially sedimentary rocks showing similar types, were discriminated by their dominant colors (at least in Leg 180). Overall, this training has taught me that it is also important to use other tools like petrography, XRD, and other tests, and not only depend on megascopic description of the cores, in order to be able to discriminate between lithologic units more accurately.</p> <p>I appreciate the kind support of the Curator, Dr. Gupta, and his staff for the favorable outcomes of this pre-cruise training.</p>	
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