

ANT XXII/2 Weekly Report No. 10 10.01.05 - 16.01.05

Finally, this is the last Weekly Report you are receiving from our ISPOL-Expedition. We have crossed to the Eastern part of our globe, the temperatures are rising by the hour, and the tip of the African continent is already depicted on the navigational map.

However, I would like to report in a chronological order. Some visitors registered on board Polarstern on Monday: Triton, Neptune's' Admiral, and Quasimodo, his helper, announced the coming polar baptism for the next day. Thus, 37 unbaptized crewmembers and scientists had to suffer by the hands of the pastor, barber and other well-costumed persons. When the captain presented the certificates, the freshly baptized, each added 10.- Euros to our collection for the tsunami victims. At the end we reached the sum of 2 200.- Euros, of which the biggest share was contributed by the auction of last week.

The next days were governed by strong winds with strengths constantly between 7 and 8. We were lucky that the wind came from behind over the portside of the vessel, so that the waves of more than three meters did not have strong effects on the ship and the nervous system of the people. The days were filled with regular reports in the mornings by the different working groups and with packing of the polar clothing and laboratory material and instruments. However, some groups are still analysing samples and their data. The preliminary results of the expedition are impressive and provide proof of the excellent cooperation between different groups and scientists coming from altogether 11 countries.

On Saturday, the wind decreased for the first time during the week. The decision to join the lectures and to resume packing was made much easier by the rain, although mild temperatures of 13.5°C were reached. The last two reports were delivered on Sunday morning, while in the afternoon a low cloud ceiling prevented the last test flight for the newly calibrated EM-bird (see earlier Weekly Reports) although the wind had decreased to a strength of 4. This was unfortunate, since we waited for this test almost for the full week as than the waves were too high for safe helicopter operation. The same evening it became clear for all participants that the expedition will soon end. The temperatures rose to mild 16°C and captain and chief scientists gave their resumes of ANT XXII/2 during a small festivity on the helideck.

There it was pointed out that the ISPOL-Expedition was unanimously regarded as very successful, that the first results indicate some publications of high standard, that the interactions between crew and scientists were without problems, and that the cooperation between different groups was exemplary.

At the end of a long, interesting, and successful expedition I convey sincere greetings in the name of all expedition members.

Michael Spindler