

Acknowledgments

The Japan Marine Science and Technology Center has been had an annual symposium on the Shinkai 2000 dive results and published a proceeding of the symposium mainly written in Japanese. However, along with the Shinkai 2000 Shinkai 6500, Dolphin 3K and other deep sea apparatus from 1991 were introduced for the genuine and comprehensive deep sea researches and therefore the contents of the symposium enlarged to be included all the studies as to the deep sea researches. The International symposium was planned as a five years evaluation of our researches by the use of all the JAMSTEC's tools and to discuss on the future direction of the deep sea researches on geology, geophysics, geochemistry, biology and technology.

The special volume was prepared here as a special volume of Dr. Hiroshi Hotta, the former Director of the Deep Sea Department for the celebration of his sixtieth birthday and we were nominated as editors to make special volume.

During our research activity and preparation of the symposium as well as the preparation of the special volume "Hotta Volume" we would like to express our sincere thanks to all the JAMSTEC persons.

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We hope the Hotta Volume should be a mile stone for the future deep sea research.

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