



**THE 4TH GEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE
OF
THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**
June 17-22, 2007, Hilton Trinidad & Conference Centre,
Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

“Caribbean Exploration – Planning for the Future”

ABSTRACT

THE INTEGRATED OCEAN DRILLING PROGRAM

Sally Radford, *FGS*, Tom Radford, *SPE*,
&
Winston Rajpaulsingh
Petroleum Geoscience Programme, UWI, St Augustine, Trinidad

Since October 2003 the Integrated Ocean Drilling program, IODP, has been expanding scientific ocean basin exploration, initiated over thirty years ago by the Deep Sea Drilling Project, DSDP and the Ocean Drilling Program, ODP.

The riser vessel CHIKYU is a new drillship operated by Japan Marine Science and Technology Center. The JOIDES RESOLUTION is a riserless vessel used in the ODP and operated by the US National Science Foundation. These dynamically positioned drillships are supplemented by mission-specific drilling barges, jack-up rigs and seafloor drilling systems. Three themes form the focus of the Initial Science Plan of this international marine research program -

1. The deep biosphere and the subseafloor ocean
2. Environmental change, processes and effects
3. Solid earth cycles and geodynamics.

The poster presents some results from recent expeditions in the deepwater Gulf of Mexico and the Pacific Ocean offshore Panama.