

International BALTEX Secretariat: Rotation of the IBS head to Marcus Reckermann

At the 24th BALTEX Science Steering Group meeting in Riga, 16-18 November 2009, Hans-Jörg Isemer announced that Marcus Reckermann will be the new head of the International BALTEX Secretariat (IBS), as of this BSSG meeting. Hans-Jörg recalled the present staff of the IBS, with Silke Köppen (half time appointed to IBS), Marcus Reckermann (full-time appointed to IBS) and Hans-Jörg Isemer (30% time appointed to IBS).

Hans-Jörg had acted as head of the IBS ever since its establishment in 1994, with a 2-years interruption during 1999 to 2001. He also recalled that the IBS is entirely financed by the GKSS Research Centre Geesthacht. In agreement with all IBS staff members as well as the GKSS directors and the BALTEX SSG chairs, who had been informed prior to this meeting, a rotation of the function of the head of the IBS to Marcus Reckermann was suggested and herewith officially brought to the attention of the BSSG and the community, effective as of this BSSG meeting. With much of the work of the IBS anyway being done by Marcus, this rotation is meant to honour his various contributions to the development of the BALTEX programme and increase his role in terms of responsibility of the IBS work. Other reasons for this rotation include the gradual shift of the BALTEX profile to biogeochemical cycles research, in which Marcus has a stronger educational background.

Hans-Jörg stressed that he will continue working for the IBS, with a possibly somehow reduced visibility towards the communities the IBS is interacting with. He will focus his IBS-related work on GEWEX and BONUS connections and partly on interactions with stakeholders such as BSSSC. Hans-Jörg re-confirmed the continuous present and future support of GKSS to the International BALTEX Secretariat, and thus to the BALTEX programme.