



DDE Marginal Seas Task Group

The Executive Committee of the "Deep-Time Digital Earth (DDE)" Big Science Program of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) (<https://www.iugs.org/dde>) has established a **Marginal Seas Task Group** proposed by scientists from the Institute of Marine and Environmental Sciences (IMES) of the University of Szczecin. Marginal Seas and their coastal zones are endangered by rising sea levels, floods, storms, tsunamis, and anthropogenic environmental hazards. To mitigate these threats the DDE Marginal Seas Task Group aims to foster the elaboration and implementation of a generally accessible methodology based on big data analyses and numerical modeling for sustainable development of marginal seas and their coastal zones. This target requires close international and interdisciplinary cooperation of marine natural scientists, socio-economists, modelers and IT scientists.

The Task Group, which includes 12 scientists from 9 countries, is led by Prof. Jan Harff in cooperation with Dr. Joanna Dudzińska-Nowak (both from IMES University of Szczecin, Poland) and Dr. Wenyan Zhang (Helmholtz Zentrum Geesthacht, Germany). The first activity of the DDE Marginal Seas Task Group was the online-conference "Marginal Seas - Past and Future" held on Dec 16/17, 2020, organized by the IMES, University of Szczecin, in cooperation with the International Baltic Earth Secretariat, Helmholtz Zentrum Geesthacht, the Guangzhou Marine Geological Survey / China Geological Survey and the Section of Marine Geology of the Polish Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research, Polish Academy of Sciences. For the conference program and the scientific summary visit <https://baltic.earth/EMS2/>.

The next step will be the initiation of an international research project "Eurasian Marginal Seas - Past and Future", the aim of which is a regional implementation of the general marginal seas research concept for selected Eurasian marginal seas. The target of the first research project is to investigate in a comparative study the evolution of the coastal zones of the Baltic Sea, North Sea and the South China Sea during the glacial and postglacial period and to develop management and planning strategies for the coastal zones. As a base for this study an inventory of project related data bases is to be established including a list of available relevant dataset taking into account the different data policies. The Institute of Marine and Environmental Sciences of the University of Szczecin is looking for a student assistant to join the *Marginal Seas Research Team* for the time span between May 1 to July 31, 2021, to compile the data base inventory taking into account the need of data standardisation of the project. Please, find more details here <https://abk.usz.edu.pl/oferty-pracy-praktyk-stazy/>. Interested PhD students are invited to approach Prof. Dr. Jan Harff by email and (jan.harff@usz.edu.pl).