

Solid Earth Composition and Evolution Working Group Report 2009-10

Throughout the last 18 months we have sponsored the following events:

September 2009: *Physical and geochemical constraints on the origin of the Caribbean plate* – held at Cardiff University.

This was attended by ~60 people and provided an excellent opportunity to discuss and review our current understanding of the plate tectonic evolution of the Caribbean.

December 2009: *Oceanic plateaus through time: Formation, preservation and environmental impacts* – Oral and poster sessions at Fall AGU in San Francisco

These well-attended sessions generated lively debate particularly on the emerging results from the recent IODP drilling of the Shatsky Rise

Future meetings

A call has gone out to SECE committee members to nominate sessions at international meeting which might be sponsored by SECE. Committee members have also been asked to consider organising SECE-sponsored meetings and workshops.

SECE will be the main sponsor of a meeting which is proposed to be held at the Geological Society of London in February 2012 entitled 'Mass extinctions: causes and effects'

Recent Publications

September 2009: *Recent developments on seafloor petrology and tectonics: A volume in honour of Roger Hekinian for his life-long contributions to marine petrology and tectonics research*

Lithos, Volume 112, Issues 1-2.

This was a SECE-Sponsored special issue.

March 2009 *The Structure of the Lithosphere: the petro-geophysical approach*

Lithos Volume 109, Issues 1-2.

This special issue resulted from a SECE-sponsored workshop held in Merrickville in Ontario, Canada, 7–10 March 2007.

Royalties agreement with Elsevier

SECE has had a long-standing (20 year) royalties agreement with Elsevier, whereby SECE received royalties per published page of SECE-sponsored special issues of Lithos or Chemical Geology.

In mid-2008 Elsevier indicated to us that they were not prepared to continue with this agreement. The Chairman had a meeting with Friso Veenestra from Elsevier at the Fall AGU in San Francisco in Dec 2008 and it was suggested that Elsevier might be prepared to financially support a bi-annual SECE workshop on a particular theme as a replacement for the royalties agreement. Unfortunately, however, in subsequent negotiations with Elsevier over the past two years it has become clear that they do not wish to financially support SECE either through a royalties agreement or through meeting sponsorship.

Despite this, SECE still has a considerable reserve of capital with which we can promote our activities for several further years and we are in the process of approaching other publishers as potential sponsors of SECE.