

1st International Summer School on Coastal Systems ended up successfully

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The Wadden Sea area and especially its tidal flats are well known as a hot spot for biological primary production but also as a source for personal recreation and a gate to history.

In August 2010, the Institute for Chemistry and Biology of the Marine Environment launched its first international Summer School focused on the biogeochemistry of tidal flats.

Within the two weeks course, participants from Zimbabwe to Bangladesh, Italy and Germany from different institutes were introduced to various research topics at the Terramare-ICBM. Located about 50 m behind the dike, the group mainly consisting of PhD students got an insight into the state of the art in terms of microbiology, geology, biogeochemistry, marine technology and modelling. Since each participant had to give a talk about his research aims, the two weeks became an excellent mix between lectures, practical work, talks and discussions.

At the Janssand Tidal Flat, the participants got the chance to drill sediment cores and to take pore water samples from various depths. A second trip on the vessel "Otzum" brought them onto the Otzumer Balje, the tidal inlet between the island Langeoog and Spiekeroog, where the students gained experience with water samplers, acoustic doppler current profiler (ADCP) and conductivity/temperature/depth (CTD) profiles. After the wavy experience, the scientists from the ICBM showed and explained many methods to analyse the material. Everyday seminars created excellent forums for discussions and interaction between students and staff alike.

The course also included two non-scientific excursions, one to the beautiful island of Spiekeroog and one to the construction site of the Jade-Weser-Port - Germany's only deep-sea port for the future generation of container ships.

Due to the different scientific backgrounds, small groups were arranged which focussed on special topics of the Summer School. The end of the course was topped off with a barbecue party. The last day was used to present and discuss the results with the scientists from ICBM. All involved parties gained additional knowledge and experiences. Besides the scientific topics, there was plenty of time to get in touch and share wonderful evenings sitting on top of the dike and watching the sunsets of Wilhelmshaven.

After the very positive synopsis of this first ICBM Summer School in 2010, the organizing committee already forged out plans for the next Summer School in 2011.