Beginning of the marine campaign TOMO-ETNA, MED-SUV

Last June 24th, 2014 in the naval port of the city of Messina the marine campaign of TOMO-ETNA experiment, together the MED-SUV-ISES project, officially started with a press conference. This press conference was presided by the maximum authority of the naval base of Messina, the commander of the hydrographic vessel "Galatea" of the Italian Army, by the captain of the Spanish Oceanographic vessel "Sarmiento d Gamboa, CSIC-UTM" and by one of the coordinator of the experiment, Dr. Patané of the INGV-Catania, Italy. Additionally the other co-ordinator of the project Prof. Ibáñez from the University of Granada, Spain was presented. Dr. Patané presented the objectives and expected results of the experiment, and the commander of the "Galatea· and Captain of the "Sarmiento de Gamboa" indicated some of the activities of their respective vessels inside of the experiment. Next picture illustrate a moment of this press conference.

Composition of the presiding table of the press conference. From left to right: the captain of the Spanish Oceanographic vessel "Sarmiento de Gamboa, CSIC-UTM", the commander of the hydrographic vessel "Galatea" of the Italian Army, one of the coordinator of the experiment, Dr. Patané of the INGV-Catania, Italy and the maximum authority of the naval base of Messina.

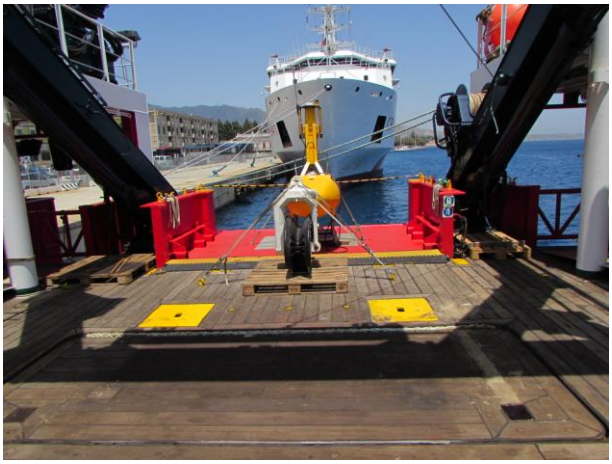
Then, the group participated for a guided tour of the "Galatea" vessel and contacted with the Italian research group, leader by Dr. Pino D'Anna from INGV-Gibilmanna, responsible of the Italian OBSs and the marine robot that will be deployed in the experiment. The activities of this vessel are scheduled between June 25 to July, 7th and are divided in: a) Deployment of 12 Italian OBSs, b) Marine Magnetic measurements and c) Ocean bottom sampling. Next pictures illustrate this tour.

Left. The "Galatea" vessel. Right. Some members of the conference press before to visit the "Galatea" vessel.

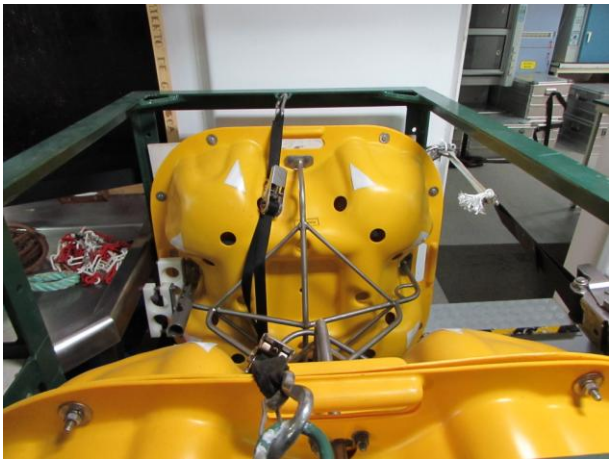
Left. Some of the Italian OBSs from the INGV-Gibilmanna stored on the deck of the "Galatea" vessel. Right. A detail of the submarine robot that will be used to obtain samples of the ocean bottom.

As successive act, Dr. Patané and Prof. Ibáñez moved to the commercial dock of the Messina harbor to receive the scientific team involved in the MED-SUV.ISES project (Eurofleet) and the Spanish project TOMO-ETNA-MED-SUV. This team has as chief of campaign to Dr. Mauro Coltelli from INGV-Catania and to prof. Francisco Carrión from the University of Granada and it is composed by 15 researchers from Spain, Italy and United Kingdom. The activities of this team are divided in four legs: a) deployment of 15 OBSs (June 25-28), b) seismic refraction experiment (June 29, to July 7th), c) seismic reflection experiment (July 8th to 16th), d) recovery of the OBSs.

This team visited the "Sarmiento de Gamboa" vessel, occupied their cabins and received the first instructions of the life and work onboard. Next we illustrate some of these activities.



Left. The MED-SUV.ISES (Eurofleet) team in front of the "Sarmiento de Gamboa, CSIC-UTM" vessel together the scientific Italian team of the "Galatea" vessel. Right. A vision of the stern of the "Sarmiento de Gamboa" vessel where the air-guns are placed.



Left. A detail of the airgun system. Right. A detail of the Spanish OBSs.

It is expected than during the morning of June 25th both vessels start their scientific activities.