



**ICELAND DEEP DRILLING PROJECT:
STUDENT FIELD TRAINING PROGRAM 2007**

The aim of the Iceland Deep Drilling Project (IDDP) is to evaluate the practicality and economics of extracting energy from deep geothermal resources at *supercritical conditions* by drilling to depths of 4-5 km. An Icelandic energy consortium, the Sudurnes Heating Company, the National Power Company, the Reykjavík Energy Company, and the National Energy Authority initiated the project in 2000 by funding a feasibility study that was concluded in 2003. The feasibility study suggested that the power output from deep supercritical fluids could increase 10-fold relative to conventional geothermal wells. A program of international scientific collaboration has been established, sponsored by the International Scientific Continental Drilling Program (ICDP) and the US National Science Foundation (NSF).

The US Principal Investigators in the IDDP have received a small educational grant from the NSF to hold a field workshop to train US students who are involved in collecting and studying downhole samples from existing geothermal wells in Iceland and expect to participate in studying a deep borehole planned to be drilled at Krafla in northern Iceland in 2008. The Icelandic Principal Investigators also hope to obtain similar funds from the Icelandic Research Council (RANNIS) to support the participation of Icelandic students and scientists.

The aim is to provide “hands-on” experience of collecting, describing, and studying the rocks likely to be encountered at high temperatures at depth. To this end we anticipate that we will map and sample gabbro intrusions and their contact metamorphic aureoles of Tertiary age exposed in the mountains of eastern Iceland, downhole samples from an active geothermal drilling site in northern Iceland, and the recently erupted volcanic rocks in the Krafla caldera.

The training program will take place for ten days beginning in the last week of June 2007. For logistical reasons a maximum of 20 people, including students and instructors can take part and the language of instruction will be English. Preference will be given to US and Icelandic students. However, although we have no funds to support participants from elsewhere, we invite students from other countries involved in the IDDP to apply to participate.

If you wish to apply to be a participant please send a one page letter of application, which explains your educational affiliation and your plans to take part in the IDDP in the coming years, to Wilfred Elders, email address elders@ucr.edu by December 15th 2006. We expect to send out letters of invitation by January 15th that will explain the level of financial support, if any, that we can offer, giving potential participants time to arrange other funding as necessary. We will finalize the list of participants by May 15th 2007.

See you in Iceland?