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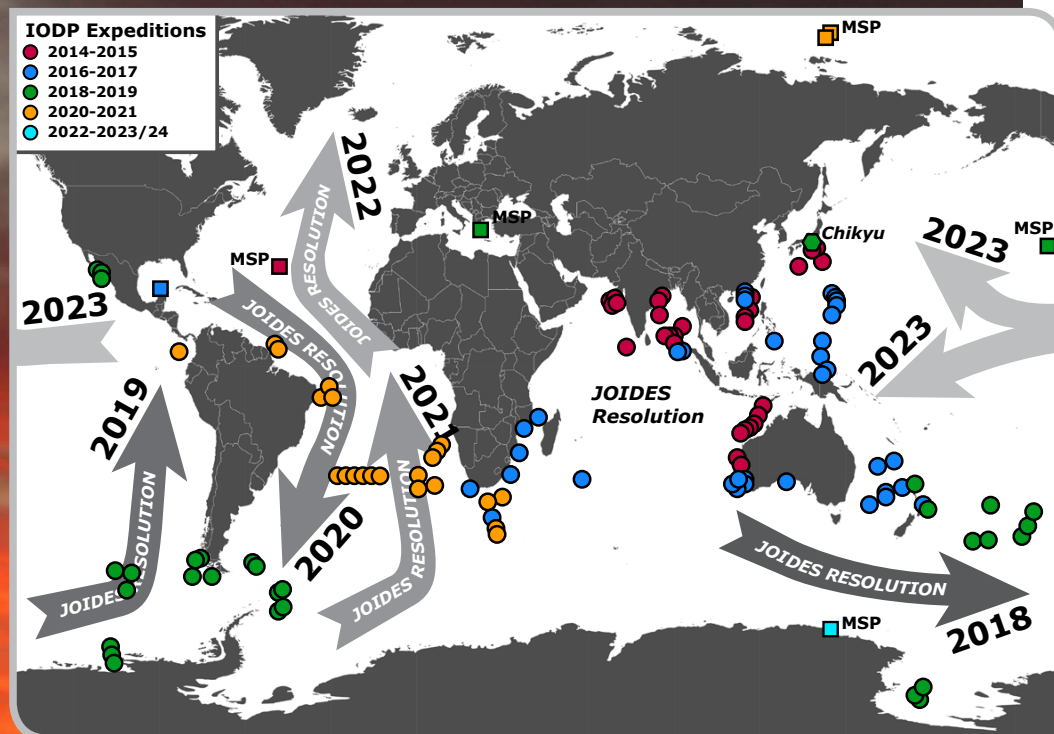
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SPOTLIGHT 8. Regional Science Planning

Although not new to scientific ocean drilling, International Ocean Discovery Program science planning has become regionally focused for two of its ship platforms, *JOIDES Resolution* and *Chikyuu*. While the non-riser drilling vessel *JOIDES Resolution* follows a globe-encircling track that is regionally planned, riser vessel *Chikyuu* operations focus on deep targets in regions around Japan, and the mission-specific platforms have been operating around the world.

The *JOIDES Resolution* ship track is determined up to five years in advance of drilling in order to identify operational regions for this platform and to allow scientists to develop proposals for work within its target regions. This regional planning brings *JOIDES Resolution* to all ocean basins, and it will circumnavigate Earth at least once over the course of 10 years. For example, *JOIDES Resolution* started out in the South China Sea and the Western Pacific in 2014–2015, and the plan is to have the ship return in the general Indo-Pacific region in 2023–2024. The long-term planning of ship tracks keeps all proponent teams worldwide engaged and, so far, has created substantial proposal pressure in the regions surrounding the proposed track of *JOIDES Resolution*.

– Anthony A.P. Koppers and Clive R. Neal

BACKGROUND. Sunrise from *JOIDES Resolution*, Expedition 340, Lesser Antilles. Credit: Etienne Claassen, IODP USIO