

## **Weekly Report POSEIDON 408-3,**

### **Jeddah Transect,**

**Current Position: 17°57'N, 40°22'E**

In the night on Tuesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011, our seagoing equipment has been unloaded from the container in Jeddah harbor, and transported directly to RV Poseidon where it was still stowed in the night on board RV Poseidon. German as well as Saudi Arabian expedition participants arrived in the morning of Wednesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011 on board. At 4 pm the ship left Jeddah harbor towards the south heading to a position slightly north of the Farasan islands at 17°14'N, 40°28'E („Southern End Station“). Due to safety regulations the transfer to the „Southern End Station“ was terminated midnight Thursday, February 24<sup>th</sup> 2011, and Poseidon steamed to a more northern station (19°44'N, 39°29,48'E) while waiting for protection by Royal Saudi Arabian warship AlYarmook. At this station, taken as a reference station between „Southern End Station“ and the „Atlantis II deep“ several CTD's were applied for water sampling. In addition net catches were performed for plankton day and night samples. After arrival of the AlYarmook, Friday, February 25<sup>th</sup> 2011, 2:30 pm, and termination of the station work both ships Poseidon and AlYarmooth headed south towards the „Southern End Station“ which was reached on Saturday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011, 7:30 pm. At this station Saudi Arabian and German scientists performed an extensive CTD water sampling program. In addition various nets were applied for day and night sampling of zooplankton and phytoplankton. For the marine geologist on board multibeam mapping and echolot sounding became interesting because in a water depth of 120 to 150 m fossil reef structures appeared on the western flank of the Farasan islands bank which are interpreted be related to the Last Glacial seawater lowstand about 20000 years ago. Station work at the „Southern End Station“ was terminated on Sunday, February 27<sup>th</sup> 2011, 2:00 pm. Currently, the RV Poseidon is heading towards the north towards the Atlantis II deep (21°23'N, 38°04'E) where the station work will be continued by an extensive water sampling program. Station work at the Atlantis II deep will be terminated latest March 1<sup>nd</sup> 2011, 12 pm, in order to reach the pilot station in time for the coast of Jeddah harbor on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8 am.

All women and men on board are in good mood and are healthy,

Ali Aidaroos

Anton Eisenhauer

CHIEF SCIENTISTS