

Suggested headline - Pipeline and cable route surveys on continental shelves for research work

Title - Potential of surveying work of submarine pipelines and cables for studying the late Quaternary evolution of continental shelves

Session - No. 90 S26. Neglected environmental proxy archives: continental shelves, karst, and drylands (Posters) 1.30pm-4.30pm Wednesday, July 30

Paper No. - 90-6 Booth 44

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Synopsis –

Millions of dollars spent on pipeline and cable route surveys on continental shelves throughout the world every year are at present wasted as research work opportunities by the scientific community.

An example of how such pipeline and cable route surveys can help Quaternary research work is presented for the northern South China Sea continental shelf off Hong Kong. This is a pioneering collaborative effort between industry, academia and research institutes. Research organizations involved include the University of Hong Kong and the CEA/CNRS. The research work has thrown light on important questions like the position of sea level during the past 25,000 years and the role of shelves in the global carbon cycle as well as refining the map of the nature of the seafloor.

A call is made to all scientists to lobby their governments to ensure that future opportunities are not wasted.