Geophysical Research Abstracts
Vol. 18, EGU2016-10976, 2016
EGU General Assembly 2016

Interpretation of the high conductive anomaly of the Society hotspot

Noriko Tada (1), Pascal Tarits (2), Kiyoshi Baba (3), Hisashi Utada (3), and Daisuke Suetsugu (1)

(1) Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology, Japan, (2) UMR- Domaines Océaniques, IUEM, France, (3) Earthquake Research Institute, The University of Tokyo, Japan

The mantle upwellings are one of the most important features for understanding the mantle dynamics. A large-scale mantle upwelling beneath the French Polynesia region in the South Pacific has been suggested from seismic studies, which is called the South Pacific superplume, and a slow velocity anomaly continues from the core mantle boundary to the upper mantle just beneath the Society hotspot (e.g., Suetsugu et al., 2009). However, the previous studies are not enough to understand the geometry, temperature, and composition of the Society hotspot. Then, we carried out the TIARES project that composed of multi-sensor stations that include broadband ocean bottom seismometers, ocean bottom electromagnetometers (OBEMs), and differential pressure gauges from 2009 to 2010 (Suetsugu et al., 2012).

We have analyzed marine magnetotelluric data obtained totally 20 sites around the Society hotspot, and revealed a three-dimensional shaped high conductive anomaly, like a thumb, beneath the Society hotspot (see detail in session GD8.3/EMRP4.9/SM7.6). In order to clarify the cause of the high conductivity, water content, melt fraction, and H_2O and CO_2 contents in the upper mantle were estimated by adopting results of rock experiments at high temperatures and pressures. As a result, the upper mantle in the high conductive anomaly involves more water, melt, H_2O, and CO_2 rather than that in the surrounding area. Furthermore, temperature of high conductive anomaly might be higher than the surrounding area.