

Hi everyone,

I hope you are all doing very well and I hope 2021 is starting very well! It is the case for me!! I arrived in La Réunion on January 9th. We stayed in a hotel during 2 days as a confinement. Luckily the hotel was very nice and we could even relax in a swimming pool!!



Then, I moved onboard the 'Marion Dufresne' for the research cruise SWINGS. The ship is big. I share my room with a young german woman. It is great as she taught me a bit of german (Moin moin!) and I can also teach her a little bit of french! But, most of the time, we speak English together! Our room is not big but each of us has its own space and I am sure we will have a nice shared room! And well... we have a pretty view on the ocean ;)



We worked quite a lot before to leave the port because we had to organise our lab. To do so, we made one in a container! We are two working in: Marion and I. Marion comes from Toulouse. I managed to add a little Breton touch on the door – just to bring enough motivation for everyday! En avant Guingamp!!



Inside we have cleaned everything and we created two small labs. The first part has been cleaned with water. We store boxes full of material, we have access to tap water and to cleaned water as well (this water is filtered in order to remove chemicals from it).



I work in a clean lab, just after this first lab. There, we created a 'bubble': we have glued plastic all around the hood, which blows clean air. This pushes on the plastic layers making a bubble :) You can see the entrance of this bubble just above, on the picture of the middle. Inside the bubble, the air blowing is filtered (and therefore cleaned). The air flow is quite powerful, which avoid 'dirty' air to come inside the bubble. In few words: we are protected from outside.

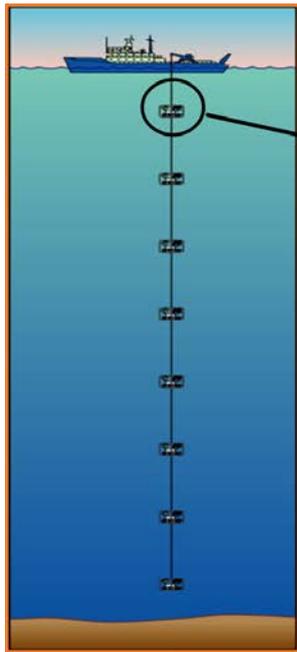


And to be sure of being clean, we wear some protection clothes. We look ridiculous but it efficiently protects our samples!

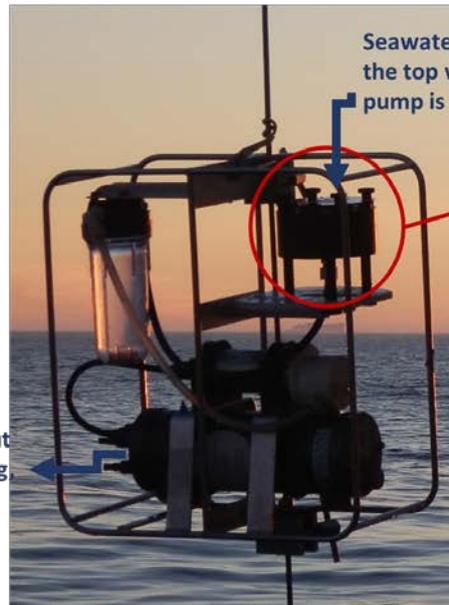


In the bubble, Marion and I take care of in-situ pumps. These pumps filter big quantities of water (up to 1000L) through filters. We deploy around 10 in-situ pumps on a cable off the ship.

Many people help for the deployment of these pumps. There are (essential!) technicians that plug batteries and program the pumping times. The crew is also helping to fix the (heavy!) pumps to the cable; and of course, there are many other researchers helping us. I will show a group picture at some point!



Seawater comes out here through tubing after the pumping



Seawater comes in by the top when the pump is in water

Filters are in this small black box

After few hours in seawater, the pumps are brought onboard. We remove the filters in the bubble and we protect them inside Petri dishes. Filters will be then analysed in our lab, on land. But the funny thing is to bet on the concentration: with the colours, we can estimate approximatively which filter has more particles. I let you guess with the picture underneath – which one has most particles between filter 1 or 3? ;)



Voilou, I think we are ready for starting the cruise ! Actually, the 1st station is coming ! We will be able to test our material and ourselves ;) I will let you know!