

IOC-UNESCO: 50 Years of Deep Ocean Observations



Speaker: Don Walsh, *Trieste* pilot and deepest ocean submersible diver

Today 24 March 2010, Paris, France
Fontenoy: Salle XI at 5pm

Captain Don Walsh, pilot of the Bathyscaph *Trieste* in 1960 when he dove to the bottom of the Mariana Trench and a former US delegate to UNESCO is recently back from Antarctica and will speak about his deep oceanographic experience. This year marks the 50th anniversary of both IOC and Walsh's dive, which still holds the record as the world's deepest dive.

On 23 January 1960, the bathyscaphe *Trieste* completed the deepest manned-dive ever, setting down on the floor of the Mariana Trench in the Pacific. On board were two scientist-explorers, the Swiss oceanographer Jacques Piccard, son of the bathyscaphe's inventor Auguste Piccard, and US Navy lieutenant Don Walsh. At 1 pm, after a four-and-a-half-hour descent into the trench, the two men reached a depth of 11,521 metres according to their instruments - later revised to 10,916 metres - in keeping with the water's density and temperature. Other dives, conducted by remote-controlled underwater robots, have since taken place. But the record-breaking manned dive of

Jacques Piccard and Don Walsh remains unequalled to this day. Walsh will speak about his experience and the importance of deep ocean observations at 5pm in UNESCO Fontenoy, Salle XI on Wednesday 24 March 2010. This event is open to the public, but registration is requested.

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