

## An experimental approach for submarine canyon-fan system

\*Steven Y. J. Lai<sup>1</sup>, David Amblas<sup>2</sup>, Thomas P Gerber<sup>3</sup>

1. National Cheng Kung University, 2. Scott Polar Research Institute - University of Cambridge, UK, 3. Statoil - Research and Technology, Austin, Texas, USA

We present results from a novel sandbox experiment designed to study how sediment gravity flows shape and form a submarine canyon-fan system. In the experiment, unconfined saline gravity flows were released onto an inclined sand bed with an internal, continuously increasing relief that was used to represent a dynamic continental slope. In areas influenced by the gravity flows, we observed deeply incised submarine canyons and dynamically swinging submarine fans. Successive high-resolution digital elevation models allow us to quantify canyon piracy, fan coalescing and sediment routes. The preliminary results show encouraging canyon-fan morphology that behavior similarly in several important respects to that observed in the field.

Keywords: submarine canyon-fan system, sandbox experiment, sediment gravity flow